

Worthington's England dream

SHOOT!

25p

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SHOOT'S Nationwide

With the new season approaching, SHOOT takes a look at the clubs in the Midlands and the North of England and makes an assessment of how they will fare in the race for honours.

AS Aston Villa steel themselves for their first title defence in 71 years, the traditional giants of the First Division have been jealously plotting to usurp the new kings of England.

And nowhere will the threat to Ron Saunders' team come stronger than from Anfield, home of the deposed Champions Liverpool whose final position of fifth was their lowest in ten years.

Despite winning the European and League Cups, last season was nevertheless a poor one by Liverpool's amazingly high domestic standards.

Home defeats by Leicester, Manchester United and Sunderland only served to fuel the belief that the mighty Red Machine



least a couple more big-name signings before the new season kicks off.

We don't think United will succeed in capturing their first League title in 15 years, but they should be right up at the top.

At nearby Maine Road, Manchester City manager John Bond has been equally busy in the transfer market.

Even an F.A. Cup Final appearance couldn't hide the deficiencies in certain departments of the team, and if the latest crop of Bond imports have as much



LIVERPOOL



was finally grinding to a halt, and pride has been severely bruised in that particular part of Liverpool 4.

Craig Johnston and Bruce Grobbelaar have been drafted in, and it is clear that Bob Paisley means business.

Expect Liverpool to be the greatest threat to all other Championship hopefuls.

Elsewhere in the North-West, Manchester United will be expecting great things of new boss Ron Atkinson.

Following Dave Sexton's sacking despite seven successive wins, Atkinson knows that Old Trafford standards are exceedingly high.

Joe Jordan and Mickey Thomas have already gone, and expect John Gidman to be joined by at

effect as last season's, there should be happier times ahead for City's long suffering fans.

Everton, with Howard Kendall making a welcome return to Goodison Park, are traditionally strong starters . . . and equally terrible finishers.

Don't expect to see much of them in the Championship challenge, but they should fare a lot better than in recent seasons.

And Leeds, despite Allan Clarke's promises of renewed glory and a mini-revival at the tail end of last season, simply don't have sufficient quality to make a serious impression at the top of

Nottingham Forest and Manchester City (left) should both improve on last season, and Cyrille Regis (below) could lead a strong WBA challenge. But Notts County boss Jimmy Sirrel (right) could have problems.



the table.

Further North, Sunderland will probably settle for a period of stability rather than excitement under the dour management of Alan Durban, while Middlesbrough's new boss Bobby Murdoch could have a few problems in store.

Without the exciting talents of Proctor, Johnston and Jankovic, it's hard to see Boro steering clear of relegation troubles without returning to their defensive approach of old.

The Midlands' Championship challenge is almost certain to be a three-pronged attack from Aston Villa, Nottingham Forest and West



Rotherham's Ronnie Moore, happy to be back in the Second Division.

Bromwich Albion.

Villa boss Ron Saunders goes into the new campaign with the same squad which served him so admirably last time.

There are no question marks over their ability, but should the added involvement of European soccer bring the crop of injuries they were so fortunate to avoid last season, Villa could struggle to keep their grip on the Championship trophy.

One of the challenges which the Champions' will have to resist is sure to come from Brian Clough's Forest.

Cloughie completed the overhaul job on his team by the final weeks of last season.



STILL THE TEAM TO BEAT



Now he reckons Forest are ready to take the League title again, and they should certainly be strong enough to finish in the frame.

West Brom have made steady progress in recent years, and now that stars such as Bryan Robson and Cyril Regis have reached full maturity, Albion could be a good outside bet for the title this time.

But for the rest of the Midlands, it could be a season of struggle. Stoke, Birmingham, Wolves and Coventry have all got to guard against the inconsistencies which have plagued them in the past, while Notts County could find themselves out of their depth in their new surroundings.



Blackburn (left) will again be challenging for promotion to the First Division, while Bryan Robson (above) hopes to shoot Carlisle to Third Division glory. But Ian Porterfield (right) has his work cut out as the new Sheffield United boss.

Manager Jimmy Sirrel has done wonders to take County from the Fourth to the First, but without at least three top quality signings it will probably mean a quick return to Division Two.

Of those battling to rise from the Second Division, expect the North's strongest challenges to come from Sheffield Wednesday and perhaps Newcastle.

Blackburn and Grimsby should also be able to maintain their progress somewhere near the top, while Bolton are a safe bet to steer clear of trouble.

Newly promoted Barnsley and Rotherham should also fare well enough, but both Shrewsbury and

Oldham might struggle to avoid the drop.

Of the Midlands teams, the best bet for promotion must be Leicester, who were unlucky to lose their First Division status in any case, while Derby will probably keep in touch with the leaders without ever really threatening to join them.

Down in the Third Division, there has been only one name on everybody's lips... Tommy Docherty.

The Doc is back in England and plotting to steer Preston back to the Second Division. The side who were relegated on goal difference must have a good chance of achieving an instant return.

Burnley, Huddersfield and Chesterfield all seem equipped to resume the promotion battles they fought and narrowly lost last time round, and if Bryan Robson can maintain his scoring touch, Carlisle shouldn't have too many relegation worries.

Following the success of Allan Clarke and Norman Hunter in guiding Barnsley from the Fourth to the Second Division, their former Leeds skipper Billy Bremner will be hoping to emulate his old team-mates at Doncaster.

Walsall and Chester both seem set for another prolonged fight against relegation, while newly promoted Lincoln will be hoping to build on last season's success.

Languishing

Finally, down in the Fourth Division, to see Blackpool and Sheffield United languishing at the foot of the League must be one of the saddest sights in the game.

Ian Porterfield has proved his managerial ability with Rotherham, and if anyone can restore at least some glory to United he is the man.

But Allan Brown faces a daunting task trying to lift Blackpool.

Of the other clubs in the North and the Midlands, Mansfield seem a good bet for promotion, while Bradford, Hull, Wigan and perhaps Darlington should be in contention.

Of the others, Hartlepool, Bury, Rochdale, Scunthorpe and Stockport should be able to keep up with the pack, but for Crewe, Halifax, Tranmere, York, and maybe even Port Vale it seems to be yet another slog against re-election for the poor relations of the Football League.

NEXT WEEK we take a look at the clubs in London and the South, the West, and Wales and the East.



Soccer needs Sid Owen

THOSE who know Sid Owen, one of four coaches sacked by Ron Atkinson in a purge since his arrival as manager of Manchester United, will wish him a speedy return to a career he has carried out with distinction over many years.

The former Luton Town centre-half, who won three England caps, has been responsible for the development of dozens of young footballers at Old Trafford and in leaving United he takes with him a vast amount of experience.

An unemployed Sid Owen is bad for football.

His experienced views on how to develop young players has gained him countless admirers. The philosophy he preaches vehemently is for boys to work at the basic skills of the game, the more basic the better.

SHOOT view!

Over to Sid: "They shouldn't worry about the tactical side. All they have to learn is the fundamental play. If you are a defender, get into the right position."

"Attackers must learn how to support other attackers, and to get themselves into shooting positions."

He stresses the importance of small-sided games. Eleven-a-side can result in a youngster hardly getting a kick. In five-a-side they are always involved. It improves their passing, their running, shooting and vision.

He firmly believes in practice and says that boys who live in crowded city areas have no excuse for not kicking a football.

"I went to Glasgow to sign a boy. He was playing in a courtyard below his home with his brother. There was a clothes line with clean laundry hung out to dry and the youngster was repeatedly kicking the ball over the clothes to his brother, who then rolled it back along the ground. Their ball control was wonderful."

"There are many ways of preventing training from becoming boring."

Sid Owen no doubt has a thought or two on the "carrots" dangled by youth football clubs to persuade their players to win matches.

"Win a trophy" has almost become a new industry. Shields, cups, medals, pendants and all manner of other giveaways are landing on the sideboards at youngsters' homes the length and breadth of the country.

This "winner takes all" attitude is worrying the senior men of football, such as Sid Owen.

So long as coaches like Sid Owen are in work, young players under their wing will be given the proper grounding.



SCOTLAND'S BIG KICK-OFF

OH, brother! The sparks are bound to fly when the Scottish soccer season officially gets under way when the League Cup kicks-off this Saturday (Aug. 8).

Jim McLean, manager of holders Dundee United, takes his team to Somerset Park for their opening tie against Ayr United, who, ironically, are managed by his brother Willie!

But there will be no brotherly love in evidence, say both brothers and an epic tie is on the cards.

"We got off to a fairly good start

RIGHT: Dundee United (light shirts) make their first defence of the League Cup against Ayr United.

BELOW: Rangers and Morton (hoops) meet in a repeat of last season's Scottish Cup Semi-Final.



Tough start for Old Firm-

and the McLeans clash at Ayr

last season," says Ayr boss Willie. "Remember, we beat Celtic 1-0 at Parkhead in the Drybrough Cup and we drew with the then English F.A. Cup holders West Ham.

"Unfortunately we didn't maintain that sort of form throughout the season and were pipped in the promotion race, but we will have learned from that experience.

"Victory would give us a great boost. If we can beat them we can beat anyone."

Champions

While Ayr and Dundee United are providing the fans with a storming 90 minutes at Somerset Park, Champions Celtic will be taking on St. Mirren at Parkhead in what should be another tough Cup-tie.

"St. Mirren beat us 3-1 at Love Street in our final League game of last season," says Celtic manager Billy McNeill.

"Okay, we had already clinched the title before that game, but we don't like to lose in any match. This tie gives us a chance of instant revenge and we aim to take it."

Celtic will be hoping for an action replay of the form that devastated The Saints on their last

visit to Parkhead when they put seven past goalkeeper Billy Thomson.

"That was a nightmare," says Thomson. "I'll never forget that game and I just hope I never have to experience anything like it again."

Charlie Nicholas, Frank McGarvey and co. will be out to make it another miserable 90 minutes for the highly rated Thomson.

Scottish Cup holders Rangers start the new season with a tough away tie to Morton at Cappielow. The game is certain to be all ticket and it will be interesting to see how Rangers' new boy John McClelland, the close season £90,000 buy from Mansfield, settles in on his official debut.

It's just possible that Ibrox manager John Greig will give the Northern Ireland international a detailed marking job on Andy Ritchie.

This duel within a duel should be as fascinating as the rest of what promises to be a pulsating Cup-tie.

"Rangers knocked us out of the Scottish Cup last season," says right-back Davie Hayes. "We were going well to reach the Semi-Finals, but we never got it together in that match."

"I still think we did enough to

win and now we have the opportunity to show who is the better team. We won't pass up this chance. Everyone at Cappielow is raring to go in the new season and a victory over Rangers would be the ideal start."

Aberdeen, in section three, kick off their vitally important campaign against Kilmarnock at Pittodrie. Although Kilmarnock were relegated last season they gave Alex Ferguson's men an extremely tough time of it in the League and, in fact, took three points off The Dons.

"We couldn't have asked for a tougher start, but we're not complaining," says Rugby Park manager Jim Clunie. "It will, after all, be a great pointer to the future for us. If we have flaws they will be shown up in this encounter."

"I would sooner see anything that might have to be put right at the start of the season rather than in the middle of a campaign."

The full programme for Saturday reads:

- SECTION 1: Celtic v. St. Mirren, Hibs v. St. Johnstone.
- SECTION 2: Dundee v. Raith, Morton v. Rangers.
- SECTION 3: Aberdeen v. Kilmarnock, Airdrie v. Hearts.
- SECTION 4: Ayr v. Dundee United, Partick Th. v. Motherwell.
- SECTION 5: Cowdenbeath v. Dumbarton, Queen of the South v. Brechin.
- SECTION 6: Falkirk v. Stirling Albion, Forfar v. Alloa.
- SECTION 7: Queen's Park v. Clydebank, Berwick v. Clyde.
- SECTION 8: Montrose v. East Stirling, Hamilton v. Dunfermline.
- SECTION 9: Stranraer v. East Fife, Meadowbank Th. v. Albion Rovers, Arbroath v. Stenhousemuir.

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NORTHERN IRELAND international goalkeeper Jim Platt has signed a new three-year contract with Middlesbrough. Platt, who has proved an outstanding understudy to Arsenal's Pat Jennings on the international scene, has a delayed testimonial match early next season.

ATHLONE TOWN have failed to resign John Minnock. Minnock left them a few seasons back for Finn Harps. But after a dispute with Harps manager Eunan Blake he asked to be put on the transfer list. However, he now has his own business in Donegal and was not prepared to move back to Athlone.

Archie's plan

WHY did Archie Gemmill turn down the opportunity of becoming Halifax Town's player manager?

Could it be he wants to extend his career as a Scotland international?

"I've still got to show Jock Stein that I'm good enough to play for my country," stresses Archie, whose talents will be on display again at Birmingham City in the new season.

NEW Thurles Town manager Alfie Hale seems determined to end the Dublin connection at the club. Since they joined the League of Ireland in 1977, the Tipperary club have had a strong connection with Dublin-based players.

CELTIC'S GOAL NEXT SEASON

Celtic plan to keep their supporters happy next season by increasing their goalscoring power.

They scored more League goals than any other club in Scotland's three Divisions last season — and hope to increase their tally next season.



Celtic's Manager Billy McNeill (left) explains: "The new season will be the most vital for Scottish football in years because of the introduction of the home team keeping the gate money.

"That means clubs will sink or swim by their own devices. Therefore you have to give the fans what they want.

"Players must be encouraged to show their skills."

In Charlie Nicholas (right), Frank McGarvey and George McCluskey, Celtic have three prolific scorers.

"We will be attacking all the way, and I guarantee Celtic fans will see goals — lots of them," says McNeill.



Stewart versus Davies

Is lightning going to strike twice at the morale of Swansea City goalkeeper Dave Stewart (below)? After an unbroken run of 57 Second Division matches from the moment he signed in February, 1980, he now has a battle on his hands.

Swans manager John Toshack has signed Wales record breaking goalkeeper Dai Davies to boost their First Division prospects... and that could take luckless Dave right back where he was at West Bromwich.

Then, in 18 months at The Hawthorns, the former Leeds



and Scotland goalkeeper was kept permanently in the reserves by Tony Godden. His £70,000 switch to Swansea brought a change in fortunes and promotion to the First Division and seemed a new peak in his career.

"Now, obviously, I've got a tremendous battle on my hands. But no way am I going to give in. After the months of waiting for a first team game at West Bromwich, I'm determined to take Dai all the way. Playing in the First Division is a very special ambition for me after the frustrations at West Bromwich," says Stewart.

"Competition for places is what the First Division is all about," says Toshack whose reign at Liverpool included beating off challenges from both Ray Kennedy and David Johnson. Each time his place was in danger, Toshack pulled out something extra.

"Anyway, I would not dare go into the First Division without two experienced goalkeepers and David's understudy last season, Chris Sander, has never played a League match."

NEWS DESK

Compiled by
BILL DAY



SCOTTISH football's record transfer deal has brought two former school pals together again.

Winger Peter Weir, Aberdeen's £330,000 capture from St. Mirren, was in the same class at Barrhead High School as Dons defender Alex McLeish.

Apart from teaming up at Pittodrie the pair are anxious to claim a place in the squad Scots boss Jock Stein is building for the World Cup Finals in Spain next year.

Peacock crows

NEW Gillingham boss Keith Peacock set up what must be a record during his short stay in the States.

The former Charlton striker was assistant coach to Gordon Jago at Tampa Bay Rowdies and took charge for one game, against California Surf, when Jago had an ear infection.

Rowdies won the match 3-2 and Peacock joked: "Maybe they'll make me Coach of the Year. I can't think of anyone else with a 100 per cent record!"

Mullery's principles

THERE have been conflicting reports just why Alan Mullery left Brighton. A boardroom row... the directors wanting to release Mullery's assistant, Ken Craggs.

However, I'm assured the real reason behind Mullery's sudden departure is that the directors, keen for money, wanted to sell either Mark Lawrenson or Steve Foster to raise some cash.

Mullery rated the central defensive partnership one of the best in Division One, and resigned out of principle.

NEXT season's President's Cup Final (Eire's Charity Shield) will be a two-leg affair. Cup holders Dundalk are at home to League Champions Athlone on August 20th, with the second leg at St Mel's Park a week later.

EXOTIC HELL

HIBS boss Bertie Auld has a warning to other managers: "Don't take your teams to Haiti!"

It may sound a glamorous and exotic location for an end-of-season tour but it turned out to be something of a nightmare for the Scots.

Things got so heated, in fact, that Auld called his players off in their second game. He said: "The atmosphere is anti-British. Their pitches are like badly-laid car parks and the knowledge of the game by their officials and players is nil."

NOBBY

YOU LOOK UPSET, BOSS, ANYTHING WRONG?



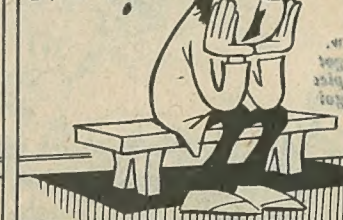
IT'S MY WIFE - SHE'S RUN OFF WITH OUR STRIKER!



DEAR ME! THAT'S TERRIBLE NEWS!



I KNOW! WHERE WILL I FIND A NEW STRIKER BEFORE THE SEASON STARTS?



Villa ticket deadline

ASTON VILLA are to stop selling season tickets after the first day of the new League season on August 29.

In the past Villa have made season tickets available for several months after the start of the season, and have often introduced cut price offers at Christmas.

Villa secretary Steve Stride says: "We have kept faith with the fans by keeping prices stable. But we felt we could only offer such prices until the season got underway."

ELLIOTT'S MESSAGE TO Q.P.R.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS would be wise to heed the words of a Shaun Elliott, who has lived in luxury in Seattle this summer on the American soccer circuit.

Elliott, who will return to Sunderland after the new season has started, is not convinced that artificial football pitches are the answer to the problems of finding the right surface on which players can express their skills.

"I prefer grass," says Shaun. "I've had a few burns from the artificial surface and it makes the game over here something of a non-contact sport."

"That doesn't suit my style."

PRICE'S MACKAY LINK

DEFENDER Paul Price, Tottenham's close season signing from Luton, has something in common with that former Tottenham star Dave Mackay — he has twice broken the same leg.

Mackay's injuries came in 1963 and 1964 and he still went on to win glory with Tottenham, including a Cup Final victory.

It is surprising that Price escaped the Tottenham net as a youngster. Born in St Albans, he played for Mid-Herts for six seasons and also Welwyn Garden United in the South Midland League.

Price, who is now 27, first broke his leg as a 20-year-old when he was on the verge of winning a place in the Luton first team. He made a successful comeback only to break the leg again.

A regular member of the Luton team for over four seasons, he went on to win full Welsh international honours. He qualified for Wales because his father was born in Merthyr Tydfil.



STOKE'S 18-year-old centre-half David McAughtrie will always get an extra kick out of playing against Ipswich. The Suffolk club's Scottish international full-back George Burley is his cousin. Dave made his League debut for Stoke against Nottingham Forest last October and has won Scottish international Youth honours.

United's star signing

MANCHESTER UNITED have made a star signing in persuading Jim Headbridge to become physiotherapist at Old Trafford.

The 40-year-old Scot moves to United after three years at Bolton where he has carved himself a fine reputation.

Peter Reid, in particular, has reason to be grateful to Headbridge after recovering from a serious knee injury.

"It took something special for me to leave Bolton and it came in the shape of United," says Headbridge.

He has been an F.A. staff lecturer, running courses on soccer injuries.

Ritchie the Third

MENTION Andy Ritchie to anyone and he'll almost instantly think of either the Brighton striker or the Morton goal-getter of the same name.

Now both front-runners have been joined in the footballing fraternity by a THIRD Andy Ritchie. Not a player this time, though. Instead, a keen County Antrim referee, who, at the ripe old age of 39, has been elevated to Northern Ireland's Grade One referee list.

DANIEL O'SHEA, an 18-year-old midfielder or defender from Ashford, appears to have a bright future with Arsenal — the great North London rivals of Tottenham, the club his dad, Danny, used to play for.

Young O'Shea, who started evening training with Arsenal when he was 13, has captained Arsenal's youth team and turned professional last December.

His dad, who was an amateur at White Hart Lane, now holds the FA preliminary coaching badge.

THEY call him Mr Remarkable at The Hawthorns. And that title certainly fits 'keeper Tony Godden, who has been an ever present for Albion over four seasons.

And in March last year he played his 150th consecutive game to set an Albion goalkeeping record. He reached the 200 mark against Leices-

ter last January and there is no knowing what figure he will finish up with. He'll be 26 in August and so still has a number of good years to look forward to.

A former Kent schoolboys and F.A. Youth player, Godden had spells as a youngster with Gillingham and Ashford and joined Albion from the non-League club for £2,000 in August.

Record-breaker Godden

ter last January and must now be fairly confident of making next season his fifth one hundred per center — injuries and form permitting.

Gillingham-born Godden made his League debut for the Albion in March, 1977, at Tottenham. And that proved a real spectacular day for him. He kept a clean sheet and Albion won 2-0.

Now he is one of seven West Brom goalkeepers who have topped the 200

1975. A year later he was allowed to leave, on loan to Preston.

Late in 1978 Godden was panned by the critics. But manager Ron Atkinson stood by him.

Atkinson said of Godden at the time: "If a striker misses a couple of goals you don't drop him. So you give goalkeepers the chance. You don't have a run of 14 unbeaten games with a duff 'keeper. Godden is a good 'un."

ENDURANCE TEST

NORTHERN IRELAND Schoolboy and Youth international defender Jackie Evans travelled thousands of miles to join Second Division Chelsea.

Before signing on the dotted line for the "Blues", 16-year-old Jackie had endured a stamina-sapping, twelve-month spell of constant Belfast-London flights to attend specialist training sessions every weekend.

KING BILEY



THE £300,000 transfer of striker Alan Biley from Derby to Everton begs the question: Will Biley prove another King?

Everton got extremely good service for four and a half years out of midfielder Andy King, a former Luton player just like Biley.

King moved from Luton to Everton for a bargain-basement fee of £40,000 in March, 1976, and then moved on to Queens Park Rangers for £425,000 in September last year.

Biley, of course, had a prolific goalscoring year spell with Cambridge United, with whom he turned professional in July, 1975, after being allowed to leave Luton.

The Leighton Buzzard-born Biley joined Derby for £350,000 in January, 1980, but his progress there was ruined by an ankle injury followed by an operation.

Mind you, Biley's bad luck could come as a blessing in disguise for Everton. He was all set to join West Bromwich last February in an exchange deal involving David Mills, but the injury ruled that out.

Now Everton boss Howard Kendall, who knows plenty about Biley's goal power from his Second Division days as player manager of Blackburn, will be hoping that the striker shows the form he did at Cambridge United.

Briefly...

● Nearly all League club secretaries, unlike most managers, are one-club men, and Peter Robinson is unique among them in having been with five in this sequence: Stockport County, Crewe Alexandra, Scunthorpe United, Brighton and Hove Albion, and Liverpool.

● Trevor Matthewson, an 18-year-old centre-half with Sheffield Wednesday, a lot of close season leisure and relaxation by going on camping holidays. Trevor, who first joined

Wednesday as a schoolboy, now has a younger brother on the same terms at Hillsborough.

● Perennial Irish League goalkeeper Terry Nicholson is poised to enter his 21st campaign in senior football.

Now with Distillery, after spells with Portadown, Crusaders, Bangor and Coleraine, the 38-year-old net-minder will experience his top-level "coming of age" when the 1981-82 term gets under way.

● Keith McCrae, former Motherwell and Manchester City goalkeeper, is making a big

hit in the States.

Playing for Portland Timbers, he has been voted the second best goalkeeper in the American League, second only to van Beveren of Fort Lauderdale.

● Quote by Ron Atkinson, Manchester United's new manager: "I know Garry (Birles) didn't pull up any trees last season, but I have a feeling we will see a different player this time round."

● Charles Harrold, the man who masterminded Coventry City's promotional activities in the 60's, has taken over as chief executive at Hereford United. Aged 60, he is a former journalist. ●

Campbell's reprieve

BRADFORD CITY striker Bobby Campbell is a forgotten man of international football. Banned for life by the Irish F.A. after an off-field incident during the 1975 European Youth Championship Finals, Belfast-born Bobby has been in the big-time wilderness ever since.

But all that could change in the not-too-distant future. Keen to add a lot more bite to his goal-starved attack, Northern Ireland supreme Billy Bingham — and the I.F.A. — may find it increasingly difficult to ignore rejuvenated Campbell, whose sharpshooting exploits made him one of the highest-placed 1980-81 Fourth Division marksmen with 22 goals in all competitions — one more than the current South-end and Ireland ace Derek Spence!

FREE GIFTS...FREE GIFTS...FREE GIFTS...WATCH OUT FOR DETAILS SOON!

FRANK WORTHINGTON took another welcome sip of his ice cold drink as the burning Florida sun beat down. He was sitting in a deck chair outside the house he is staying in this summer while playing for the Tampa Bay Rowdies. It's the sort of place you see in glossy magazines or films; in the background the local rock station was a sharp contrast to the peace of the golf course that the house backs on to. Worthington had scored a superb hat-trick the previous evening — Tampa loves him and he loves Tampa. "But I can't wait to get back to England. Because while there's just this much chance (there was the smallest of gaps between his thumb and forefinger) of me getting into England's World Cup team, that's all I need to motivate me for my last fling in English soccer . . ."

IT'S six years since Frank Worthington played for England. He won eight caps in 1974 and 1975 and while few fans would doubt his class, at 32, and after so many years in the international wilderness, you'd get good odds of Ron Greenwood calling up the Birmingham City striker to lead the England attack.

"I've never lost my enthusiasm to play for my country," he says, which some England players certainly have. "I've always believed I was good enough and I still have a belief in my ability."

"If Frank Sinatra can make that many comebacks, why can't I make one?"

"Being realistic an England return is just a dream, but as long as there is even the remotest chance I'll be giving it a go."

"I feel I've done enough in the past to justify my claim. I won the Adidas Golden Shoe award for being the First Division's top scorer in a struggling Bolton team. I thought somewhere along the line I might have got back then."

"What I must do when I return to Birmingham is to play consistently well and score a lot of goals. And keep my fingers crossed."

'Unfashionable'

"It's harder when you're with a so-called unfashionable side. The England squad is inevitably made up of players from successful clubs, who are on television almost every week. In the 'outbacks' you have to do that much more but I'll be trying."

The good news for Blues — and England fans — is that once again Worthington is scoring goals in a team that hasn't been challenging for honours.

After a slow start to his career with Tampa, who he joined for the summer on a purchase re-purchase agreement, Worthington is now their top scorer and points-leader with eight goals and seven assists (making 23 points) in 18 matches.

But the Rowdies are having a disappointing season and may fail to qualify for the NASL play-offs for the first time in their history, which, for them, would be little short of a disaster.

"The team has been unsettled for one reason or another and we've not put our game together or found a pattern," says Worthington.

But Frank has won over the fans, and the media. I'm not sure,

though, if the American Press have done him a good service by nicknaming him the Yorkshire Striker after it was revealed that one of Worthington's relations delivered milk to the infamous Yorkshire Ripper in Bradford, four miles from where the player was born. "Said he was an ordinary chap, too."

Whatever . . . if there is one English player who seems ready-made for the American scene it's Frank Worthington, with his skill, extrovert style and devotion to the late Elvis Presley.



Chris Davies meets... FRANK

WORTHINGTON

This is his second spell in the NASL and, while it isn't Worthington's fault, he hasn't really made the impact expected.

"The first club, Philadelphia Fury, had a bad side. Even so, we scraped through to the play-offs where we were eventually beaten by the Rowdies. Our coach was Yugoslav and didn't speak English . . . it all went wrong."

"There was one big controversy after a game in Toronto. They needed nine points to reach the play-offs and we wanted three. They won 4-3, but under the American points system we both got our quota. At the end both teams celebrated — then came suggestions that the match was rigged, which it wasn't."

Frank continues: "I depend so much on the service I'm given and it hasn't been as good as I'd like. I need the ball played to me and it hasn't been happening."

"Even so, I love Tampa and America. I have one year of my Birmingham contract left and if I don't make the England squad I'll probably come back here for a couple of years."

"I can't say whether I'd live here permanently — that's too long term. My daughter Kim is happy here, even if she misses her school back home."

"The adulation from the Rowdies supporters is almost embarrassing. Two hundred and

fifty of them travelled up to Jacksonville to see us play badly and lose. Yet when we came out of the dressing-room after the game they were cheering us — it was remarkable."

Worthington's most treasured possession — "I couldn't live without it" — is the gold chain he wears around his neck at all times with 'T.C.B.' and a flash incorporated in it.

It came from Elvis's father and only a select few have them.

"When I joined Philadelphia one of the owners, who was in the pop business, contacted Mr. Presley."

"T.C.B. means Taking Care of Business and the flash is the Presley logo. Elvis used to give the chains to friends and 'insiders'. I couldn't believe it when one was presented to me."

"Elvis has always been special to me. There's just something between us . . . I can't explain it."

"I remember I was on a flight and one of the air hostesses had a similar chain with T.L.C. on it — Tender Loving Care. Apparently she was on many of Elvis's flights and he gave her a chain."

"One of the most memorable three days of my life were spent in Memphis, when I was shown



'I'm the to lead'

around Elvis's house, Graceland. I saw his first-ever Cadillac, his racquet ball court . . . spoke to some of his friends who worked for him."

If America means a lot to Worthington, Birmingham is still where his heart is, even if he's from Yorkshire.

"I can't say whether playing through the summer will take the edge off my game when I come back. I'll have to wait and see. What's important is that I love football as much as I did 15 years ago."

'Desire'

"I still have the same enthusiasm and desire as I've always had, even in training."

"Blues have a few problems at the moment, with some players wanting away. I hope Jim Smith can sort them out, or if the worst comes to the worst, replace them with experienced players, because we need a few old hands rather than too many youngsters."

"Villa's success obviously put pressure on us. Good luck to Villa, but personally I was hoping Ipswich would have won the title because they played the best football last season. They're my type of team."

"I don't think three points for a

win will have much effect. I'd have preferred seeing an extra point awarded for scoring three goals. This is more likely to promote attacking play."

"I also like the 35-yard offside line used in the States. It gives forwards more room and scope to express themselves, promoting better football."

"The standard in America is not necessarily better than when I was here in 1979, but I'd say the League was tougher to play in. Teams are more organised now."

"Next year teams will have to use four North American players instead of three. I wonder if this is a bit premature and whether the overall standard will suffer. I'm not sure that the home-born players are quite up to it yet."

"The long-term future is bright, though. I've seen some Under-12 and Under-15 games and the skill of some of the youngsters is incredible."

"The game in England is based too much on physical aspects, with technique coming second. Mostly it's how hard you can run or how fast you are. It's a shame things have been allowed to go that way."

Whatever happens to Worthington in the next year, he will always have regrets about his career.

"I still feel a little bit cheated



LEFT . . . Worthington would have preferred Ipswich (dark strip) to have won the title, not Aston Villa.

about the way things have gone for me. When the transfer to Liverpool fell through it was really cruel.

"I failed the medical because of high blood pressure. I was having a bad time. My father had just died and Huddersfield were relegated. I was also having too many late nights.

"Physically there was nothing wrong with me. After five days in hospital, having every test possible, they discovered I was hyper-sensitive, which was reflected in my blood pressure.

"It acted as a sort of yellow card to me. I slowed down and now do things in moderation.

"I can't help feeling I've missed out on success, though. I know I've helped three teams to promotion to Division One, played for my country and have topped the First Division scoring chart.

"But that isn't *real* success, which is why I can't wait to come home and have one last try to re-establish myself in the England set-up."

Frank of the Blues — and Rowdie Worthington (below).



man England'



Worthington in action against Scotland's John Blackley in 1974.



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CLEMMENCE SHILTON CLUB	Wet/Dry	White embossed foam rubber	Red polyurethane	As palm	Y.S.M.L.	£6.75
SUKAN/REUSCH 115	Wet/Dry	White neoprene foam rubber	Green polyurethane	White grooved foam rubber	Y.S.M.L.	£7.95
UHL 023	Wet/Dry	Yellow 3 level foam rubber	Black PU velvet	As palm	Y.S.M.L.	£9.95
UHL 031	Wet/Dry	White smooth foam rubber	Black grooved foam rubber		S.M.L.	£10.95
SUKAN/REUSCH 119	Dry	Black grooved foam rubber	White polyurethane	As palm	Y.S.M.L.	£11.50

CODE	USE	PALM	BACK	TRIM	SIZES	PRICE
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SUKAN/REUSCH 124	Wet/Dry	Blue smooth foam rubber	White polyurethane	Blue grooved foam rubber	Y.S.M.L.	£11.95
SUKAN/REUSCH 122*	Wet/Dry	Blue smooth foam rubber	White polyurethane	Black grooved foam rubber	Y.S.M.L.	£12.75
UHL 025	Wet/Dry	White smooth foam rubber	Black PU velvet	White dimpled foam rubber	S.M.L.	£12.95
UHL 034*	Wet/Dry	Red smooth foam rubber	White polyurethane	Red pimpled rubber	S.M.L.	£13.50
CLEMMENCE PRO	Wet/Dry	White dimpled foam rubber	Red polyurethane	White grooved foam rubber	Y.S.M.L.	£14.95

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SOCCER AS I SEE IT Gary Shaw



The Mad Hatter's Tea Party, one of the most popular of all the rides to be found at the fabulous Disneyland in California.

excitement, entertainment and rip-roaring fun. Slot machines are everywhere, even in the toilets! I played roulette and won 40 dollars, so I didn't exactly break the bank.

Obviously I saw some football in the magnificent Coliseum stadium in Los Angeles.

First match the Aztecs beat Frank Worthington's Tampa Bay Rowdies 2-0. Then they lost to Calgary Boomers.

I spent a little time with Frank after the game. What a character he is. We went off in search of George Best but didn't get to meet him. I hung around his bar a few times but George didn't show.

Like Frank, I enjoyed the way the game is presented in the States. The razamatazz and family involvement. I didn't think much of the standard of football, though.

When I got home a couple of friends wanted me to go off to Spain for a fortnight but I told them I'd done enough travelling for a while.

No time to put my feet up,



The fantastic world of Walt Disney, as brought to the sightseers by the amazing fantasyland in America.

'My trip to Fantasyland'

George Best, still one of the finest players in the North American Soccer League.



WHAT a hectic close-season. It's been one of the longest summer breaks for years yet I've hardly had time to relax.

As soon as the season ended Villa played a couple of games on the Continent to finance the club's ten-day holiday in America.

We played against Spanish First Division team Real Valladolid, situated about 150 miles North of Madrid.

I suppose you could say they were on a par with our lower Second Division sides. Even so, they held us to a 4-4 draw in front of a 20,000 crowd.

Villa then flew straight on to Lorient on the Brittany coast for a match against the French Champions Nantes.

Apparently they play against top foreign opposition at the end of every season as part of a festival.

Carnival

We didn't play on Nantes' ground, but a tiny municipal park pitch in Lorient. The ground had held the town's carnival the week before and there were still the marks where the stalls and sideshows had been.

Honestly, it was the worst pitch I've ever played on. One slip and you could easily have broken an ankle.

There were only about 1,500 people there, so the game was played in very little atmosphere. Still, Villa shouldn't really have lost 3-0.

A day or so later I joined up with the England Under-21 squad while the rest of the lads prepared for their holiday in Los Angeles.

As you know, the Under-21's drew 0-0 with Switzerland and beat

a strong Hungarian side 2-1. Justin Fashanu and I scored the goals that brought a beaming smile to the faces of manager Dave Sexton and coach Terry Venables.

I returned home on Sunday June 7th, quickly packed a suitcase and was off to Los Angeles with Peter Withe and his family the following day.

The boss, Ron Saunders, was out there with the team, despite his fear of flying.

I had originally planned to return with the lads, but fortunately met up with three friends of David Geddis, who had flown out to L.A. to see him.

We got on famously so I arranged to stay on in Long Beach for a further ten days after Villa left. That ten days stretched into 22! I only came home then because the money ran out. I literally stepped on to the plane in Los Angeles airport with ten dollars (about five pounds) in my pocket.

I was broke but it was worth it. Everything about the States was fabulous.

We hired a car and did a lot of

touring along the coast. Naturally we visited Disneyland. That was an incredible experience and would take too long to describe all that I saw in fantasy world.

But I must tell you about my favourite ride . . . the Pirates of the Caribbean.

You speed through tunnels of water on a boat, past figures that talk and move . . . get attacked by pirates and monsters . . . sail right into a sea battle. We came out of the other end of the ride breathless.

We then went to the glittering, gambling city of Las Vegas, which is right in the middle of the Nevada desert. It was so hot we had to drive through the famous Death Valley at night. Even then the heat was almost unbearable.

Vegas was 24 hours of non-stop

though. My cricket club, Moor Green, wanted me. I turned out in my first match of the season and notched up 25. Not bad, I suppose, considering I'd had no practice.

I've also played a lot of tennis since coming home, and been shopping around for furniture for the new house I've recently moved into.

As soon as I was beginning to enjoy the break at home I had to report back for dreaded pre-season training. That was on July 22nd. More about that next time.

George Best
Gary Shaw

FOLLOWING their runaway success in the Second Division last season, West Ham's return to the top flight is one of the most eagerly anticipated events of the new term. And no one will come under closer scrutiny than England's newest cap, talented young centre-half Alvin Martin.

MARTIN, born in Bootle and released by his first club Everton without making a League appearance, was one of the stars of West Ham's impressive promotion surge last season.

Yet despite the apparent ease with which West Ham led the rest of the field by 13 points, the 23-year-old defender realises that their big test is yet to come.

"The last couple of years have been one long success story," Martin says.

For many of the West Ham side, the new season will be their first real taste of First Division football.

Exciting youngsters such as Paul Goddard, Paul Allen, Alan Devonshire, Ray Stewart and Martin himself have only a handful of top League appearances between them.

But those budding talents will undoubtedly be helped by the vast experience of men such as Billy Bonds, Trevor Brooking, David Cross and goalkeeper Phil Parkes.

And from a personal point of view Martin is relishing the challenge more than most.

"Having been called up by Ron Greenwood for the full England team against Brazil in May, I know a lot of strikers will be out to give me a real test," he continues.

"I now have to prove that I am worthy of a place in the full England squad, and with the World Cup Finals just around the corner, there couldn't be a better time for me to break into the international reckoning."

After a nervy start to his international debut against the Brazilian masters at Wembley,

Martin passed his big test in creditable fashion.

He has since added a second cap to his collection as a substitute for Dave Watson against Scotland, and although both of Martin's England appearances have ended in defeat, he is nevertheless keen to gain further experience in the international arena.

Calibre

But first he must prove he is capable of holding his own on a regular basis against the best in Britain — and that means First Division strikers of the calibre of Peter Withe, Paul Mariner and Kenny Dalglish.

"They don't worry me," Martin insists. "People have said that we are going to struggle once again to avoid relegation — but they are wrong."

"Survival is not the name of the game at Upton Park any more. We have become accustomed to success in the last couple of years, and we intend to keep it that way."

Alvin Martin beats out the message... 'THE FIRST DIVISION WON'T SCARE HAMMERS'

"First there was the F.A. Cup Final victory over Arsenal, and that was followed last term by a return to Wembley for the League Cup Final, a good run to the last eight of the Cup-Winners' Cup and our fine form in the League campaign.

"In all those games we proved that we can match the best teams in Britain on our day.

"But now we must match the best teams in Britain every week, not just on a one-off basis.

"We were helped in Cup victories over Spurs, Arsenal, Villa, Everton, Coventry and WBA by the fact that we were always the underdogs. But we won't be enjoying that role any more, and it is entirely down to our own ability now.

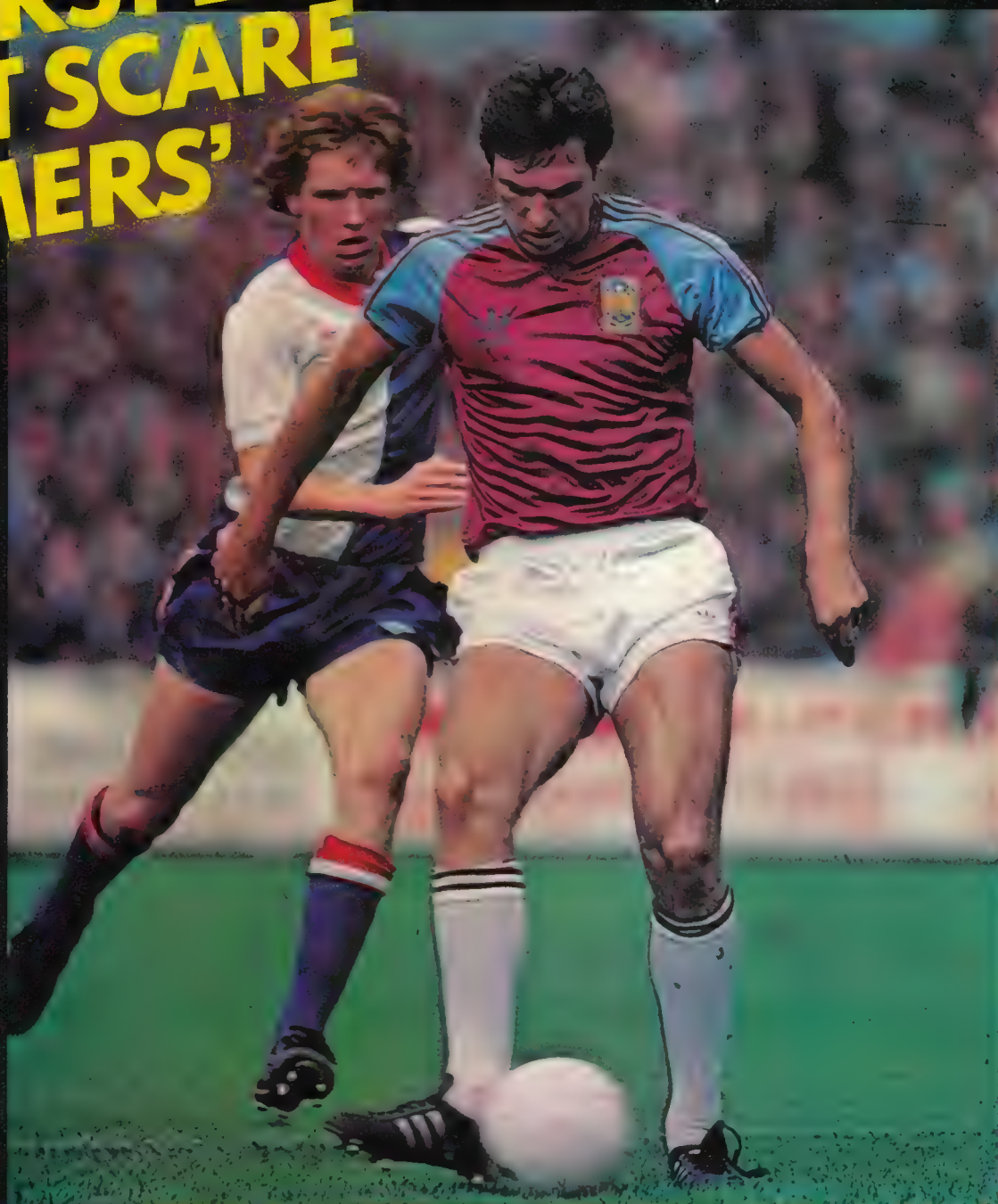
'Different'

"To be honest, we were never really stretched in the Second Division, particularly last season, but we know it will be a completely different story now."

But if that sounds as if Alvin Martin is wary about what the future holds for West Ham, he insists it is purely an understandable caution which any promoted team must adopt when facing new surroundings.

"Don't get me wrong — we're not afraid of anybody. We've proved that we can beat any team in Britain on our day, and while we know the League is an entirely different proposition, those Cup results have done wonders for our confidence."

Martin holds his own during the Second Division promotion battle against Blackburn.



SHOOT!

TONY WOODCOCK

F.C. Cologne



SHOOT!



How Notts County are preparing for life at the top



'We must buy'

— Chairman
JACK DUNNETT

IT won't have gone unnoticed by Jimmy Sirrel and John Toshack that they qualified for membership of a very elite club at the end of the last season.

Only twice before has a manager steered the same club through all Divisions of the Football League — Northampton did it under Dave Bowen and Carlisle when Alan Ashman was in charge.

But the Notts County and Swansea City bosses will be hoping that's where the similarity finishes, because there was no happy ending to either of the earlier fairy-tales.

Both Northampton and Carlisle lasted just one season in the top flight before beginning a backwards slide which became impossible to halt.

Neither had the equipment, on or off the field, to survive in the First Division and in terms of resources and crowd potential, there are strong similarities between County and the other two.

So how will County cope with life at the top?

The major difference is that they are ready to spend, as chairman Jack Dunnett explained.

'Strengthen'

"We recognise that at least two new players are needed to strengthen the playing squad and the money will be made available.

"By our standards we are prepared to spend a substantial amount, but we must take our time and choose carefully."

That puts the onus clearly on Sirrel, and the manager said: "I'm well aware of the situation and I have a tremendous desire to satisfy our supporters.

"Our future in the First Division is obviously uncertain at this time, but I've been tremendously affected by the enthusiasm which has been shown since we clinched promotion.

"It seems that every time I arrive at the ground, people are queuing to buy season tickets. The place is

alive at the moment and we must take advantage of things.

"It's up to everyone at the club to make sure we meet the demands of the First Division. We must continue to make progress and in saying that, I realise that the onus is on me to find players who will improve our squad."

Neither manager nor chairman will reveal how much County are prepared to spend, but it seems that the club transfer record — £200,000 for goalkeeper Raddy Avramovic — will be broken in the next few weeks.

'A different world'

— Commercial Manager
STUART BURGAN

NO matter what role you play at a football club, promotion to the First Division inevitably provides a fresh challenge.

And for Stuart Burgan, Notts County's commercial manager, it means moving into a totally different world.

His department, probably more than any other at Meadow Lane, have lived under the "cloud" of Nottingham Forest's incredible success in recent years ... but now he can compete on level terms.

"We have been fortunate in having a lot of committed supporters with an affection for the club who have been very good to us.

"They have done things which, in business terms, might not have been viable for them, but now we shall be able to offer a package



'Trial and error'

— Secretary
LANCE HAYWARD

NOTTS County are acutely aware that getting to grips with the First Division in the administrative sense won't be achieved without problems at Meadow Lane.

That was one of the reasons why, within weeks of promotion being clinched, long-serving secretary Dennis Marshall opted for an early retirement.

Former Cardiff City secretary Lance Hayward was immediately recruited as his replacement —

and he soon recognised that major changes would be necessary.

He said: "My immediate brief when I arrived was to look at the whole system of running the club and prepare reports on what changes I felt were necessary.

"We are now dealing on a totally different scale in everything we do and although it's not going to be easy, the job is a tremendous challenge."

Only a handful of League clubs — and all in the Fourth Division — operated with a smaller administrative staff than County last season. That's one thing which must change — a fact which was emphasised when the rush for season tickets began.

Experience

They are confident that every available seat in the ground will be sold before the start of the season — they have even had a request for a season-ticket from Johannesburg — and Mr Hayward's experience of handling international crowds at Ninian Park is clearly going to be invaluable.

Up to the time of writing the club had taken a record £175,000 in season ticket sales. Only 250 remain unsold.

Not the least of his problems is that County will kick off in the First Division with only three sides of the ground open to spectators because a £750,000 sports complex is being erected at one end.

Added the secretary: "With the new development not due to be completed until May, 1982, one of the main problems is the number of turnstiles available for getting people in and out of the ground.

"That's something which we must look at very carefully and we also need to consider the fact that the area normally reserved for visiting supporters might not be large enough.

"Much of our planning is on a trial and error basis at the moment because until we have staged a few matches in the First Division, we won't know what to expect."



Raddy Avramovic,
County's most
expensive signing.

which is value for money.

"Selling ideas might not be any easier, but people will certainly be more prepared to listen to us now we are in the First Division. National advertisers, for example, are not really interested in Second Division clubs, but we now have a chance with them.

"Our new status will make a big difference, in the commercial sense, in all sorts of ways and although we don't have the facilities to offer which many clubs have, that is being put right."

ON the day when Stoke City ended a nightmare 109 years by winning their first major trophy, a brave professional footballer was facing up to the fact that an injury had ended his career.

Today that club and that player are united in a passionate bid to reach heights that neither has known before.

While Stoke were beating Chelsea 2-1 at Wembley in the 1972 League Cup Final, Richie Barker was hanging up his boots after breaking his left leg while playing for Peterborough.

But if Stoke have failed to build on the success of that heady year, Barker has made tremendous strides, both as a coach and a manager. And now, as City's new boss, he vows to bring the Potteries alive.

"Alan Durban, the previous man-

**Barker's
aim**

FOR LIVERPOOL READ STOKE!

ager here, is reported to have accused the local supporters of taking Stoke City for granted. But I remember him saying something very similar when he left Shrewsbury Town, and they went on to win the Third Division Championship," said Barker.

"Of course the local people are a bit sceptical. Can you blame them? This club has fielded some of the best players in Football League history — Stanley Matthews and Gordon Banks to name but two.

'Promotion'

"But apart from many years of First Division membership, and some years in the Second Division capped by promotion, Stoke has won nothing. That League Cup success is all the fans have to keep them going.

"But the town is a footballing place and this club has a distinct atmosphere. Some clubs tend to live in the past and recall former glories when all else fails. Here we have it all to aim for, and that in itself is quite a challenge."

At 41, Barker is admired and respected in the professional game as a man who knows what he wants, who tells his players what he expects and who says what he thinks to your face.

"When I became manager at Shrewsbury, with Graham Turner as my assistant, we worked hard to achieve that breakthrough into the Second Division.

"Many people believed we were just another ambitious little club which lacked the support and resources to succeed. We proved them wrong and so did the

Shrewsbury supporters. I believe the same will happen here at Stoke."

Barker left Shrewsbury before they clinched the Third Division title in 1979. He teamed up with former Peterborough manager John Barnwell at Wolves.

"In a way I did miss being a manager in my own right. But I enjoyed my time at Molineux. When we took up the challenge Wolves were certs for relegation. At the end of that season we not only stayed up but reached the F.A. Cup Semi-Final losing 2-0 to eventual winners Arsenal.

"John Barnwell's car crash meant that he was away from the ground for a while and I enjoyed the responsibility of First Division life. I proved to myself that I could handle First Division players.

"We had a marvellous season in 1979-80, finishing sixth in the table

A brief taste of glory for Stoke City after winning the League Cup Final at Wembley in 1972.

and beating Nottingham Forest in the League Cup Final at Wembley. Last season we went back to another F.A. Cup Semi-Final, this time losing to eventual winners Spurs after a replay.

"But I wanted to work as a manager, and after saying my farewells to John and the players I moved up the road to take over the team that people in Staffordshire consider to be Wolves' closest rivals.



"Our first local derby is at Molineux, on November 28, and I look forward to that experience."

Loughborough-born Barker is married, to Joyce, and lives his life on the lines of straight thinking and straight talking. He sets himself targets and works hard until they are reached. He expects his

players to be no less determined.

"I know what needs to be done at Stoke. I know what we need on the field and behind the scenes. At the moment those needs are the business of Stoke City and me. The rest of the world will just have to judge us on our playing record this coming season.

"It has been suggested that my time with Durban and Barnwell may have coloured my ideas about management in their shade. But this is not true. Only a fool can go through life without learning from other people, listening to advice and improving.

"But the important thing is to sort out what is good and what is not so good for you. To be your own man and make your own judgments. I am a copy of no manager. I am following my own ideas.

'Perfect'

"There are models within this game that everyone should attempt to copy. I cite Liverpool as the perfect example — success at a consistent level, organisation, high standards on and off the pitch. These are great qualities and I would like to think we can build something comparable here.

"We have some good young players here, like Adrian Heath and Lee Chapman, and I hope they will stay with Stoke and help us to improve our reputation.

"Aston Villa have made the breakthrough we were all waiting for by winning the League Championship. Why? Because they did so with only two international players in their side, Jimmy Rimmer and Des Bremner, and they aren't that current!

"Now, of course we have seen Peter Withe play for England and other members of the squad called up. But only after the event, not while they were striving for success.

"You don't have to have international stars in your side when you set out to achieve something. It will take Stoke a while, but we will both make up for lost time."



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Moore No.6...Keegan Let's all play

ONE of the biggest mistakes sports kit manufacturers make in bringing high fashion to professional football in the past few years is to underestimate the importance of numbers emblazoned on the backs of shirts.

The styling today is often superb. The colour is vivid even on the foggiest nights in mid-winter. But numbers? That's a different story.

In many instances the fans have to play a guessing game if they fail to recognise the player on the ball and have to rely on identifying him by the numeral carried between his shoulder blades.

Importance

Shirt numbers have gained increasing importance since their first introduction by the Football League almost 50 years ago.

If you travelled to most of the soccer playing nations of the world carrying a gold and emerald green shirt bearing number 10 on the back, thousands would identify it as the shirt worn by the Brazilian ace Pele.

His number was the first fans would look for whenever the Brazilians emerged from the tunnel before an international.

The famous Press photograph of



Denis Law was instantly recognisable at Manchester United by the number on the back of his shirt.

Pele exchanging shirts with Bobby Moore after England's 1-0 defeat by Brazil in the 1970 World Cup Finals was flashed to newspapers all over the world.

The unofficial ceremony remains one of soccer's most treasured moments, symbolising the enormous respect Pele in the number 10 shirt had for the great England warhorse Bobby Moore in his white number 6 shirt.

Pele's shirt is still one of Moore's proudest possessions 11 years after that match in Mexico.

Another number European soccer fans were delighted to glimpse was the number 8 shirt worn by Eusebio, the "Black Panther" whose goals and grace in Portugal's forward line won him acclaim wherever he played.

Few who were at Wembley in 1966 will ever forget "8" (Eusebio)



The famous number 11 of George Best as he tangles with former Palace 'keeper John Jackson.

No.7...di Stefano No.9 ...Pele No.10...Cruyff No.14...

THE NUMBERS GAME



Perhaps the most famous number 1, one of the first goalkeepers to carry a number on his jersey, was Russia's Lev Yashin.

Johan Cruyff once made the number 14 shirt of Ajax famous.

On the domestic front, no shirt number generates more excitement than the number 7 worn by the goalscoring King of the Kop, Kenny Dalglish.

Tottenham fans will tell you that their luckiest number is 10. It represents the white shirt worn by Glenn Hoddle, one of the heroes of their 1981 F.A. Cup Final victory over Manchester City.

Next season Hoddle's shirt will be working overtime in midfield in League and Cup, including the Cup-Winners' Cup, if the England man decides to remain a Spurs player.

Kevin Keegan has always grabbed the 7 shirt, a number which has brought him success in



Glenn Hoddle hit Spurs' equalising goal during the F.A. Cup Final at Wembley.

brushing with "4" (Nobby Stiles) in England's World Cup Semi-Final victory over Portugal.

Stiles, England's gritty midfield star, stuck so close to the Eagle of Lisbon that supporters could be forgiven for believing they were Siamese twins that night.

Franz Beckenbauer's number 5 shirt became a great source of comfort to West German fans whenever their national side's defence was under siege.

Graceful

All the time "5" was battling for possession, winning the ball, and sweeping imperiously upfield with a graceful, lengthening stride, they felt safe in the knowledge that things were going well for Beckenbauer and Germany.

Alfredo di Stefano's number 9 shirt, which hung on a peg amidst the famous white shirts of Real Madrid in the 1950's, became a symbol of success wherever he played, especially in the European Cup where the Spaniards took the trophy five successive times from 1956-60.

a glittering career at Liverpool, Hamburg and Southampton.

And that was the shirt he wore on his first England appearance against Wales at Cardiff in May, 1974.

No number brought more prestige to Arsenal over a decade than the 7 Liam Brady carried on his back. If a pass was swept from the left-half position into the stride of Alan Sunderland running wide on the right, you could bet your terrace ticket that number 7 had propelled it.

Arguably the most dazzling ball wizard in the history of football, Stanley Matthews, wore the number 7 for England, Blackpool and Stoke City.

Manchester United's number 10 shirt struck fear into many defences in the 60's and 70's. Worn by none other than the great Denis Law, his famous shirt could be seen moving like a knife through defences or soaring above them.

And George Best's "Legs 11" shirt had the same appeal at United in his glory days.

Hopefully, the shirt manufacturers will make the importance of numbers a priority as they strive for new designs in the 1980's.

A number can mean everything to the fans.



Pelé and Bobby Moore swap shirts following Brazil's 1-0 win over England in 1970.

SURVIVOR McLEAN

IN our August 1st issue we examined the managerial situation in the Football League. Now SHOOT turns the spotlight on Scotland.

ANOTHER soccer season of uncertainty is once more upon us with, as usual, one absolute certainty... managers will be sacked by hard pressed clubs when the going gets tough.

The managerial merry-go-round will undoubtedly take another whirl at various stages, with the bosses taking the brunt of failure.

Last season in Scotland there were 16 managerial changes and that number will steadily increase this term.

Four Premier Division managers were on the move throughout 1980-81, with Bertie Auld leaving his beloved Partick Thistle to go to the even bigger challenge of ailing Hibs, Jim Clunie (St. Mirren) and Davie Sneddon (Kilmarnock) were sacked and, during the close sea-

There was another close season switch when Billy Lamont left East Stirling to take over Dumbarton, where Sean Fallon moved out of

"I made it to the top as a player and possibly I can do the same as a manager. I would certainly love to give it a try."

East Stirling say they have had 30 applicants for their job and the situation is under review at the moment.

The full situation in Scotland is at the moment is:

PREMIER DIVISION

CELTIC: *Billy McNeill.*
RANGERS: *John Greig.*
DUNDEE UNITED: *Jim McLean.*
ABERDEEN: *Alex Ferguson.*
MORTON: *Benny Rooney.*
PARTICK THISTLE: *Peter Cormack.*
DUNDEE: *Donald Mackay.*
HIBS: *Bertie Auld.*
AIRDRIE: *Bobby Watson.*
ST. MIRREN: *Ricky McFarlane.*

FIRST DIVISION

HEARTS: *Bobby Moncur out ... Tony Ford in.*
AYR UNITED: *Willie McLean.*
CLYDEBANK: *Bill Muir.*
KILMARNOCK: *Jim Clunie.*
ST. JOHNSTONE: *Alex Rennie.*
DUNFERMLINE: *Pat Stanton.*
FALKIRK: *John Hagart.*
EAST STIRLING: *No manager at time of going to press.*
RAITH ROVERS: *Gordon Wallace.*
QUEEN'S PARK: *Managerial duties handled by coach Eddie Hunter.*
MOTHERWELL: *Ally MacLeod.*
HAMILTON: *Davie McParland.*
DUMBARTON: *Sean Fallon out ... Billy Lamont in.*
QUEEN OF THE SOUTH: *Run by committee.*

SECOND DIVISION

ALBION ROVERS: *Managerial duties handled by coach Joe Baker.*
ALLOA: *Alex Totten.*
ARBROATH: *Ian Stewart.*
BRECHIN: *Doug Houston.*
CLYDE: *Craig Brown.*
COWDENBEATH: *Andy Holland.*
EAST FIFE: *Dave Clarke.*
FORFAR: *Alex Rae.*
MEADOWBANK THISTLE: *Willie McFarlane out ... run by committee.*
MONTROSE: *Bobby Livingston.*
STENHOUSEMUIR: *Jim Black.*
STRANRAER: *Noel Hood sacked ... run by committee.*
STIRLING ALBION: *Alex Smith.*
BERWICK RANGERS: *Frank Connor.*



Bobby Watson (Airdrie)

the hot seat.

One of the names currently being considered for the vacant East Stirling job is none other than Jim Baxter, the former Scottish international superstar, who had two spells with Rangers, and a career in England with Sunderland and Nottingham Forest.

"Yes, I applied for The Shire job," admits the not so slim Jim these days. "I think I still have something to offer football."

Alex Rennie
(St. Johnstone)



John Greig (Rangers)

son, Bobby Moncur staged a sensational walk-out at Hearts to go to Plymouth Argyle.

The men who held their position in the Top Ten were Billy McNeill (Celtic), John Greig (Rangers), Jim McLean (Dundee United), Alex Ferguson (Aberdeen), Bobby Watson (Airdrie) and Benny Rooney (Morton).

Operation

Jim McLean, in fact, is the survivor of the original Premier Division set up which came into operation six years ago. He says candidly and frankly: "The only certainty about football management is that one day you will be sacked!"



Celtic boss Billy McNeill gets a lift from his jubilant team after clinching the League title last season.

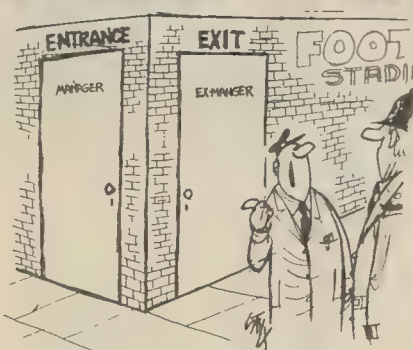


Jim McLean
(Dundee United)

FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"It's the only dive he knows — he's our goalkeeper."



"Yep . . . they're in and out like a dose of salts."



"Remember son, should you ever contemplate suicide — don't use a gun."



This week John Gidman, Manchester United's recent signing from Everton, selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"I'm teaching him to chase a ball without being tripped."



"He's going up to the stadium to watch his team play football."

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Bryan Robson, Paul Power, John Hollins, SOCCER'S MEN FOR

FOR the majority of the country's footballers, the current close-season break is a lot longer than they have become used to. And for most it's been a welcome and well-earned opportunity to set aside the pressure and rigours of modern day football, put their feet up, and rest their tired, battle-weary limbs.

There's no doubt about it, battling through the toughest League programme in the world, not to mention the various Cup competitions both at home and abroad, certainly takes its toll.

"Sammy Lee has become a very special player," purrs Shankly. "To my mind, he's the biggest revelation at Anfield. He works like a slave for every minute of every game. Whether it's in defence, midfield or attack — wherever the action is, that's where you'll find Sammy. He was certainly one of England's most successful players in 1980-81."

Modestly, Sammy describes his own role as one of "giving a bit of width to the team. I battle for the ball in midfield, too," he adds, almost as an afterthought.

it's the action and involvement of midfield that really appeals to me," admits Robson. "I love to be the midfield general — dictating the play. I'm the type of player who has to be on the go all the time to get the best out of myself. It means I have to be fitter than other players, because of the end to end job I do.

"Defenders can sit on the edge of the box and wait for the ball to come to them — the same goes for strikers at the other end. But I'm the man in the middle. Fetching and carrying, and sometimes

taking over aspects of both roles. I wouldn't have it any other way, though."

Both Robson and Lee are young men, and yet to reach their peaks. So perhaps you might expect them to be full of running. But Billy Bonds and John Hollins have both reached what's described as the veteran stage of their careers, yet they still display all the drive and stamina of their youth.

At 35, with more than 600 League games behind him, Hollins can still show a clean pair of heels to many a First Division player.

West Brom's Bryan Robson (below, stripes) in a tussle for possession with Tottenham's grounded but determined skipper Steve Perryman. Paul Power (right) the midfield general whose selfless running helped Manchester City to reach Wembley for last season's F.A. Cup Final.



Yet while many players openly admit they're fit only to drop at the end of a nine-month campaign, others look as full of running in May, as they were the previous August.

They're the players whose stamina appears to have no limit. The men managers know they can count on week in week out to give 100 per cent in every game. They're soccer's men for all season.

Probably the newest member of that much sought after band is Liverpool's Sammy Lee. At the start of the 1980-81 campaign, he hadn't even completed a dozen League appearances for the Merseysiders. By the end of it, he had clearly become as important to the Red's machine as the likes of Dalglish, Souness and Thompson. Who says so? None other than Bill Shankly.

Lee got his chance last season through injury to Jimmy Case, with the promise from manager Bob Paisley that if he did well, he would stay in.

"I didn't need telling twice," says Lee. "That gave me a tremendous incentive. But no one takes anything for granted here. There's a battle for every place in the side. That's what keeps everyone on their toes." And no one's been on his toes more than Lee.

West Bromwich Albion's Bryan Robson was another young man who made a tremendous impact, not only for his club, but England, too, last season. And he was going just as strongly at the final whistle as he was at the first.

"Although I can play at the back,



Billy Bonds... just a few of ALL SEASON

"With experience, I've learned to pace myself. I don't quite rush around as much as I used to. I conserve my energy for when it's most needed," says Hollins. "But I still have my appetite and enthusiasm for the game. That's what keeps me going."

"Mind you, I'm appreciating the extra time off we've had this close season. At my age, I can use these couple of extra weeks to put my feet up," he adds with a smile.

Hollins' manager, Terry Neill, who paid Queens Park Rangers £75,000 for John's services two years ago, describes him as a "marvellous professional."

"John enjoys total involvement

captaincy of The Hammers from Bobby Moore, Billy has been the driving force behind the team on the field. Whenever heads have looked like dropping, Bonds has been there, leading his men on by his own, never-say-die example. A real fighter who relishes being the heart of the team, pumping the adrenalin to all those around him.

"I play now the same way as I've always played," says Billy. "I enjoy training, keep myself fit, and love the involvement on Saturday afternoons. My temper may have cooled over the years — but my enthusiasm for the game still burns as bright."

A view readily endorsed by his



Arsenal's veteran John Hollins shows he has lost none of his enthusiasm or ability with this shot against Coventry City at Highbury last season (above). And West Ham's captain Billy Bonds (right) is as determined as ever to lead his team to further glory now they are back in the First Division.

in training, match preparation and the game itself," says Neill. "In fact, he's a manager's dream."

And former boss Dave Sexton calls him "a human dynamo who covers every blade of grass in every game — twice. He's a wizard in attack, and a trojan in defence."

"I was told at an early age that because of the way I played, I'd burn myself out by the time I was 21," explains John. "When I was 23, they said I wouldn't last much longer. At 27 they said I'd soon start to slow down. But here I am, still going strong. And I feel well enough to carry on for another couple of seasons at least."

Billy Bonds, who'll be 35 in September, has just enjoyed a memorable season with West Ham, and is now looking forward to returning to the First Division with all the enthusiasm of a teenager.

Ever since he took over the

manager, John Lyall.

"A lot of the youngsters here have grown up alongside Billy. He's like a father figure to them," says Lyall. "They look up to him, and they couldn't wish for a better example of a tremendous professional. He's worth his weight in gold to me, and the team. Billy's still one of the fastest men at the club, and wouldn't know how to shirk a challenge."

Completing a trio of London based players is Steve Perryman. 14 years he's been a loyal servant to Tottenham Hotspur, and never given less than maximum effort in every one of them.

No one deserved his F.A. Cup winners' medal last May more

than Steve. Through what has been a lean period for Spurs in recent years, Perryman has continued to lead his men in the only way he knows how. It's the team that comes first every time for him.

New League Champions Aston Villa have got their own perpetual motion man, too, in skipper Dennis Mortimer. The bearded Midlander, who led his men to one victory after another last season, in true buccaneer fashion, earned the respect of team-mates and opponents alike for his lung-bursting performances.

Up at Maine Road, Manchester, they used to call Colin Bell Nijinsky, after the famous race

horse because of his running power. Now they've found a new 90 minute power man — Paul Power. A skipper very much in the tireless Bell mould.

Alan Ball, too — hardly a spring chicken any more — went back to Southampton to continue playing in his own, inimitable way. And Steve Coppell, who's taken over Ball's role in the England side, seems to have an endless reserve of energy, just like his predecessor.

Let's not forget the likes of Lou Macari, Archie Gemmill, Brian Horton and Asa Hartford, either. Watch any one of them playing, and we guarantee you'll be breathless, even by half-time.

At a time when the commitment of our highly-paid footballers is being questioned yet again, these are the men who really *do* give managers and fans alike real value for money.





Captain Skipper

DARLINGTON have the most daptly-named captain in the game — his name is Peter Skipper, and following his transfer from Hull to Feethams a year ago, his ambition is to lead his present club into a higher grade of football.

Last season, Darlington finished in the upper half of Division Four, a vast improvement on the previous term, when they had to go to the Football League cap in hand to seek re-election.

And Skipper says: "I'm confident we'll continue to get better. As well as some of our younger

players benefiting from their first team experience of last season, Kenny Mitchell has joined us from Newcastle United to strengthen our defence.

"In 1980-81, we struggled from August to October before we were able to put things together — next term our aim will be to make a good start and try to stay consistent."

An indication of how much Darlington manager Billy Elliott believes in youth can be gleaned from the fact that the 22-year-old Skipper took over from 18-year-old Donald Ball as captain last season

— especially as Skipper himself only became a full-time professional with Hull at the age of 21.

And Skipper says: "Becoming captain assisted in my settling down process in the North-East. Coming to this part of the world was a complete change for me, but the attitude of my team-mates here has made me feel at home.

"Hull wanted me to play at full-back, but I felt out of touch, so I moved to Darlington.

"Now, I want to prove that my best position is in the middle of the back-four."

HOME BIRD



BIG John Bird was considered mad by his friends over a year ago when he threw in his lot with Second Division Newcastle — but a few months spent at Hartlepool convinced him he had made the right move.

"We've got a great bunch of youngsters here," explains John. "They have been good enough to attract the attention of First and Second Division clubs, and blended well enough with the experienced players to make me

feel that Hartlepool can do well in the future."

Bird's own future was very much in the air at the end of the 1979-80 season, when he was given his release by Newcastle United.

Minnesota Kicks tried to lure him to the United States with a two-year contract that would have guaranteed him an earning potential in excess of 1,000 dollars a week.

But Bird refused to be tempted over the Atlantic, and also turned down Bristol Rovers and Hull City.

"The financial inducements were enough to rock me back on my heels, but in signing for Hartlepool I got exactly what I wanted — the opportunity to continue living at home in the North-East, which I love, and to build up a business as an artist."

Now, John runs an art gallery, paints pictures which can fetch £200, and combines it successfully with his football.

And he says: "If I had left the area I would almost certainly have had to forfeit my business, which is security for the years ahead.

"As for soccer, Hartlepool might have slipped up in the promotion race last term, but I'm hoping the lessons we learned will have stuck. Next season we plan to have fewer slip-ups."

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I ACHE so much I feel as though someone has dismantled me bone by bone — and forgotten to put me back together. It's "torture time" again, slogging through the routines of pre-season training, getting back into shape after the summer break.

Even though I had only a fortnight of lazing beside the swimming pool at a villa I rented for my family and parents in Marbella, Spain, my muscles had lost that high tone that is the hallmark of a pro playing in fighting trim.

Every year, as I get older, I have to work harder to prepare for the new season. And whereas during the season training is done only in the mornings, as playing matches keeps you in shape, pre-season training is an all-day affair.

I long for the moment when I heave myself out of my Datsun

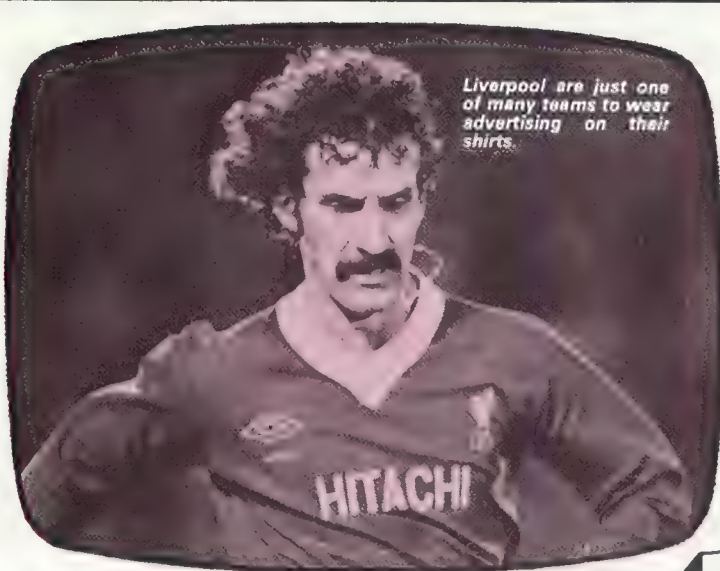
stimulated even more with three places to aim for.

I've often pointed to the example of Nottingham Forest as vindication for the system. Brian Clough's side finished in only third spot in the 1976-77 season, and went on to win the Championship, become the first side to take the League Cup for two seasons in succession, and capture the European Cup twice.

I'm sure that Leicester City gained valuable experience in their single season in the First which will stand them in good stead when they rejoin next season, as I'm convinced they will.

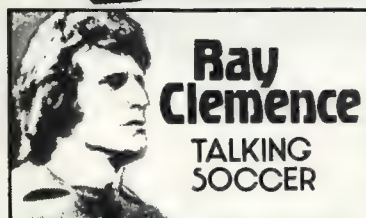
Leicester probably suffered from a lack of maturity, something that can't be levelled at Swansea City, who'll be playing in the top flight

'Shirts with sponsors' names should be screened.'



Liverpool are just one of many teams to wear advertising on their shirts.

'DROP THAT TV BAN'



Ray Clemence
TALKING SOCCER

sports saloon and drag myself into the house and flop into an easy chair. Usually I've got just about enough strength to hold the cup of tea my wife Vee has ready to hand me.

But today is the deadline for my SHOOT column so I'm at my typewriter going through a pile of letters I found and picking out a selection to answer.

Tragedy

First is from Mike Lawson of Loughborough, who writes: "Leicester City were the only team to do the League double of beating Liverpool both at home and away, yet they have been relegated to Division Two. Don't you think this is a tragedy, and a good reason for scrapping the three up, three down system?"

Although it's a shame that Leicester, a very promising young side managed by one of the shrewdest bosses around, Jock Wallace, have dropped back into the Second after only one season, I still believe that on balance the system benefits the game.

It ensures that teams who hold a mid-table position in the First around Easter time have to continue to battle to keep their status, instead of playing safe; and the promotion race in the Second is

'I'm pleased I won't have to face Joe Jordan in the League.'

next season for the first time in the Welsh club's history.

My former team-mate John Toshack has worked wonders, employed a lot of the methods he observed at Anfield, and I can't see The Swans being pushed back into the Second.

"In a recent column in which you highlighted football's problem of decreasing gate money, and the fact that fund-raising schemes were now failing to make up the deficit, you forgot to mention sponsorship. Surely in these harsh economic times it's absurd and hypocritical for the TV companies to ban the screening of sponsors' names on shirts and prevent clubs from receiving increased fees?" So writes Steve Haylor, who goes on to tell me he's an Everton supporter.

I couldn't have said it better, Steve — and I hope Liverpool fans will forgive me for agreeing with a Blues supporter.

The TV ban will one day be lifted — it's a certainty — so why don't the companies be realistic and do it in time for next season to ease the financial pressure and enable clubs to balance their books?

We see motor racing cars decorated with trade names, tennis players with shirts, rackets and holdalls with the insignias of sports firms, so why not Liverpool shirts with "Hitachi" and Everton ones with "Hafnia" displayed on the small screen?

I just cannot see the logic in continuing the ban.

It's not as though clubs receive a massive fee for allowing their games to be televised. I believe Liverpool

were paid only £25,000 in TV fees for the whole of last season!

I never cease to be amazed at some of the information fans unearth about me, and write for confirmation. For instance, Mary Williamson of Whitby. "Is it true that at Scunthorpe United you were nicknamed 'The Clutch'? If so, why?" she asks.

The nickname was given to me by Jack Brownsword, the former trainer, after he'd cured me of one of my early faults.

I tended to tip away high-powered shots he fired at me in training, until he shouted in exasperation: "One of these days you'll clutch the ball."

Reckless

Incidentally, when I went to Anfield I was christened "The Assassin" because of the reckless way I charged around in five-a-sides.

That brings me to a question from Keith Watson, who hails from Telford: "Do you think Man. United were wrong to part with Joe Jordan?"

I'm sure that in time they could regret allowing him to leave for Italian club AC Milan. Joe is one of the most underrated strikers around, and I don't blame him for moving when the club refused to pay him the wages he considered he's worth.

A lot of people unfairly categorise Joe as an all brawn and no brain type, but I can assure them that he's not only fearless and a superb header of the ball, he's very skilful in his positioning, has surprising ball control on the ground and is unselfish enough to make goals for others.

I'm only too pleased I can look forward to a League season when I don't have him to deal with.



Ray foils Joe Jordan during the 1979 F.A. Cup Semi-Final replay at Goodison Park.

England laugh~in

Fun in the sun for England's internationals — smiling all the way to the World Cup Finals in the heat of Spain next year.



Captain Terry McDermott — all at sea (above). Not quite Bill and Ben, but Kevin Keegan and Glenn Hoddle seem to be turning pail at the prospect of the long road to Spain (right). Meanwhile, Phil Neal and Kenny Sansom both seek to make full-back selection an easier prospect with a spot of nobbling the opposition (far right)!





Under-21 star Mark Proctor gets a lift from his pint-sized team-mates Sammy Lee and Adrian Heath (left). Aston Villa's Peter Withe and Ipswich star Paul Mariner forget their feud for last season's Championship for some fun on the high seas (right).



SHOOT!

JACK Charlton and Norman Hunter — a central defensive partnership which became a legend for Leeds United. With a rock as solid as Gibraltar, Don Revie used those two great characters to lay the basis for the success of Leeds through the mid-60's to the middle of the 1970's.

Few First Division sides could rival the strength, the sheer physical presence and the partnership of Charlton and Hunter. Strikers dreaded meeting them; managers spent weeks trying to lay plans to beat them. Few succeeded, for Charlton's tremendous aerial power and Hunter's lethal tackling blotted out almost every player who competed against them.

Ask any Leeds fan why the Yorkshire club has struggled in recent years, and it's a fair bet they'll tell you straight, in traditionally uncomplicated Yorkshire fashion. "There's nowt like our Jack an' Norm," they'll say. "They'd sort 'em out today."

Charlton and Hunter have gone, it's true. But there's a growing belief at Elland Road that Leeds



penalty-areas. He's just like Jack Charlton was in that respect — a real danger to the opposition in the air.

"The more the two of them play together, the better the understanding will get. That's what it's all about in that position — you must get used to each other's style."

"I would say Cherry and Hart's partnership was a major reason for Leeds' consistency last season. And the fact they are friends off the field helps, too."

'Forgive'

"Clarke and Jones, the old Leeds strikers, were pals away from Elland Road. It's an important point — it helps you forgive each other's mistakes more easily! They seem to understand each other, they room together on trips and their partnership is improving."

That's good news for Leeds fans. If Cherry and Hart fill the long gap which has existed since Charlton and Hunter retired, Leeds may at last be on the road back to the glory days.

Trevor Cherry tidies up for Leeds despite the challenge of Ipswich's Paul Mariner.

HART and CHERRY

As good as Charlton and Hunter?

may have found a partnership to rival that mighty one from the late 60's. Paul Hart and Trevor Cherry finished the season in such outstanding form — individually but, more important, collectively — that Leeds fans began asking whether they might be about to rival the legendary Jack an' Norm.

One Leeds man is already convinced. "Hart and Cherry can become the new Charlton and Hunter if they continue to improve as they have done," says Paul Madeley, who retired this summer after a long and successful career at Elland Road.

"Don Revie always believed you needed the solid base of a good goalkeeper and two tight, effective central defenders. If you had that, you had something to build on. Well, Leeds have probably lacked that kind of duo at the back for some time. Individual players who have been good, solid professionals have played there — but we haven't had the partnership we've needed."

Madeley believes that problem may now be over. Leeds finished last season with some solid, consistent form and, significantly, didn't concede a goal in more than half a dozen of their final games. Under Allan Clarke, they had at last tightened up and begun to resemble the solid, consistent side Revie built and led to such success.

Madeley says: "I've always believed centre-back was Cherry's best position. He played there for Huddersfield before he joined Leeds, and he did the job well. He became something of a utility

player for Leeds and England, but I believe his qualities are best suited to the role alongside a big man."

"Cherry took over the centre-back role permanently last season and it benefited the whole side. He looks happier there, is a really good tackler, and reads the game so well. He tidies up behind Hart, and wins the ball consistently on the floor. He is playing as well now as when he played for England, and I'm sure he would have been even more beneficial to England had he played continuously at centre-back. He played full-back most of the time for England but that was never his best position."

'Natural'

"He's probably playing as well now as at any stage of his career. He is a natural tackler and he's doing it superbly. He loves to go forward a little and use the ball."

"Paul Hart was a shaky player when he first arrived from Blackpool. But he's come on enormously, settling down and improving with every game and every season. His displays in 1980-81, in particular, were outstanding and a lot of people were saying he should be in the England squad."

"Of course, his greatest strength is in the air, for he's a big lad. He has improved on the ground but probably needs to work a little more on that aspect. He likes attacking and getting involved in set piece moves in opponents' "

Paul Hart poses an aerial threat for Brighton 'keeper Graham Moseley.



'THE ROCK' WILL STEADY DERBY



ROY McFarland has gone — now the responsibility for directing Derby County back to the First Division rests fairly and squarely on the shoulders of Steve Powell. For he has succeeded McFarland not only as captain but defensive general as well.

"I'm convinced that his best position is in the middle of the back four, either alongside the centre-half or as sweeper," says Derby manager Colin Addison. "For ten years, since he first played in the League side as a 16-year-old, Steve has been one of the finest midfield players in the country; now things are changing."

'Progress'

"We are turning around the first team squad at the Baseball Ground and we have to be seen to make progress next season. No one is better qualified to be at the heart of a new look Derby side than Steve."

"He is experienced, he reads the game beautifully and uses the ball so intelligently. It is going to be an important season ahead for him and vital to the club."

There are no complaints from the player known as 'The Rock' that his career is going to take a switch. "I'm sure that central defence is now the role for which I'm best suited," he agrees. "At 26, I can look to ten years football there."

"My qualities are defensive anyway. Even as a midfield player I was always the anchor man. That is where I can do the best job for Derby."

"There is a lot of potential at the Baseball Ground and young players are likely to feature more and more in our side. Just as Paul Emson, one of the most talented young wingers in the game, and striker John Clayton have made their mark, so others are coming more and more into first team football."

"Tony Reid, at 18, is highly promising in midfield; Frank Sheridan gave some fine displays at centre-half near the end of the season; Steve Spooner has recovered from a broken leg to show exciting ability in midfield; Kevin Wilson attacks well up front and Wayne Richards is going to be a strong challenger at left-back."

"These youngsters represent real promise . . . but, at the moment, it is just that. To bring it out, you have to be right in the key positions — like mine."

"If we are going to begin with several young players, it is vital to get away to a good start. Confidence quickly drains away from inexperienced youngsters if results go badly. Some early wins, too, would give us a useful 'cushion'."

"I'm convinced that the Second Division is going to be very much as it was last season . . . with one difference. This time I feel that there will be three places up for grabs, because I can't see anyone running away with it as West Ham did last season."

"We've got to have a chance if only we can open up with positive football and some impressive early

wins. A town that is used to football success hasn't seen too much from us since the Championship year of 1974-75 — but that could be changing!"

So much hinges on the defensive partnership of Powell and big, strong Alan Ramage. It was in these positions that manager Addison was forced to chop and change time and again during last season.

"We had nine pairings!" exclaims Addison. "You simply cannot strike a blend like that. To be successful, you need fluency . . . and that never comes when changes are so often forced on a side through injury."

'Plagued'

"If we had beaten Preston at home in our last game of the season, that would have taken us within three points of promotion. In many senses that wasn't too bad for a side plagued by injuries as we were — but not, of course, good enough for Derby County."

McFarland has left Derby with a great deal of sadness — but the fact remains that it was his incredibly cruel run of injuries which contributed so massively to those defensive changes. Now Powell and the powerful Ramage, can give Derby's defence a new degree of stability.

"I've enjoyed my years in midfield, but it is something of a special challenge to be given such a key role in what will be a critical season for the club," adds Powell.

players I'm sure the board will back me to the hilt to find the money to bring them to Valley Parade."

But even if McFarland finds recruiting difficult, his arrival considerably strengthens the team. The big six-footer hopes to turn out regularly.

"I certainly don't intend to spend

MANAGER McFARLAND TO PLAY ON

FORMER England and Derby County centre-half Roy McFarland has stepped down from the Second Division to the Fourth because he wants to prove that he has what it takes to be a successful manager.

The ambitious 33-year-old, after 16 distinguished years as a player, jumped at the change to manage Bradford City.

He says: "I watched them a couple of times towards the end of last season and I'm sure the potential is there."

"The squad I've inherited from George Mulhall (now in charge at Bolton) is basically the one that was just pipped for promotion to the Third Division a year ago."

"If I can find a couple of new

Saturday afternoons on the touchline if I can help it," says the rugged defender who made 521 appearances for Derby.

McFarland, who left his native Liverpool 14 years ago when the then Derby manager, Brian Clough, signed him from Tranmere for £24,000, turned down two "tempting" offers from the United States because he is optimistic about English League football.

And he wants to do his bit to further the cause. "It's also a wonderful opportunity for me to learn the business of management and, hopefully, do Bradford City a lot of good in the process."

"If I can provide entertaining football I think the fans will respond."



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Positive action

THERE are millions of people who love football. They follow Spurs, Celtic, Swansea or Forest etc., they are well behaved, travel thousands of miles to watch their favourites play.

Yet with riots breaking out in so many of our cities, it proves that violence and anti-social behaviour is on the increase. Hooliganism is no longer confined to football stadiums.

Crowd trouble which will force many supporters to forgo watching their favourite team next season will threaten our national game.

I am not alone in wanting to see positive action — co-operation between clubs, police and supporters clubs etc., taken before next season is under way.

Measures must be found to minimise crowd trouble at football grounds.

ANDREW DIAMOND,
HEBBURN.

● I agree, but apart from much stiffer sentences for offenders, I'm not sure what else can be done.

In defence of Neal

AFTER reading 'Liverpool — Kings of Europe' I felt that I had to write and disagree with your comments on Phil Neal.

I saw every home game at Anfield last season and during that period Phil Neal was, after Sammy Lee and Graeme Souness, Liverpool's most consistent player and was the only one who didn't miss a match.

Although Neal is 30 and may have lost some of his sharpness he still has that touch of class that puts him ahead of most of his fellow right-backs.

Why Neal is continually criticised in papers and magazines, as well as on TV I don't know.

He is a model professional who could do with a little encouragement.

Laurie Whitehead,
MERSEYSIDE.

● Despite Phil's form for Liverpool he was responsible for one or two mistakes that led to crucial goals for England's opponents — and when that happens club form is forgotten.



Ian Walsh, one of the Welsh stars leading their World Cup qualifying campaign in action against Russia.

Welsh paradise

SO Mr Bowles of Hull reckons that the current Welsh national football team are living in a fool's paradise.

Well, here is a Welshman's answer to that laughable statement.

If Mr Bowles is amazed that the Welsh squad has been labelled the best-ever, after victories over only third-rate opposition (remembering the 2-0 victory over Scotland), then surely he will be amazed to read that the Press are now describing England as certain World Cup Finalists, after gaining only their third victory in their group against Hungary.

Surely it is England who are the ones living in a fool's paradise, not Wales.

England's chances of qualifying for next year's World Cup Finals are suspended by a thread, while Wales already have one foot in Spain.

The only paradise that Wales will be living in will be the paradise of Spain's Mediterranean climate, while England will be left at home, contemplating what might have been, if only...

ANDREW EVANS,
SWANSEA.

● I don't think fans of either country should count their chickens before they're hatched.

Learn skills

JOHN CARTWRIGHT rightly stated that youngsters of today are not learning to play the game properly.

If you put a group of 11- or 12-year-olds on to a pitch you will get a game of kick and rush. From an early age kids should be made to concentrate on their weaknesses and so become more complete players.

It is sad to see many of today's top youngsters lacking in the basics of the game. Glenn Hoddle, for instance, is a brilliant ball player, but not a ball-winner and cannot head a ball well.

Continental football may not be as competitive as ours, but it is certainly much more skilful.

I strongly agree with Mr. Cartwright and say competitive football should be scrapped until the age of 14. Then youngsters would know what they are doing and will be able to play the football that will produce better stars for the future.

GRANT TOOKEY,
BRISTOL.

● Too many kids are taught tactics before skills — and it shows.

ASK THE EXPERT

Send your letters to: Ask the Expert, SHOOT!, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. U.K. readers receive £2 for every letter published. Overseas readers receive a special SHOOT T-shirt. When writing, please state size: small, medium or large. While every letter is read, our Expert regrets he cannot reply to individual letters personally.

Worst start

What was the worst-ever start to a season by any English First Division club?

FERGAL DOHERTY,
LONDONDERRY.

● Not a word down at the Stretford End, Fergal, but Manchester United have that 'honour'.

In the 1930-31 season, United lost every one of their first 12 League games — and had to wait until 1st November, when Birmingham were beaten 2-0, to notch up their first points.

They never recovered from that dreadful start, either — finishing bottom with only 22 points, nine behind next-worst club Leeds.

Lowest

What is the lowest number of points to separate the Football League Champions from the bottom club?

JOE PHELAN,
FIRE.

● It is just 16, Joe. Compared with the 41 which separated Villa and Palace last season.

This happened three times — in 1901-02, 1927-28 and 1937-38.

1927-28 saw the keenest relegation struggle in the League's long history.

Of the bottom nine clubs, seven finished up with 39 points — while Spurs and Middlesbrough were the unlucky pair with as many as 38 and 37 points respectively.

International penalties

What is the highest number of penalties ever awarded in an international match?

AJESH KATARIA,
KENYA.

● As far as I can trace, Ajesh, it is the five awarded in the 1930 World Cup game in Montevideo in which Argentina beat France 6-3.

SHORT PASSES

● Eight teams who played in the 1980-81 First Division have never won the F.A. Cup — Birmingham, Brighton, Coventry, Leicester, Middlesbrough, Norwich, Palace and Stoke.
(TIMO ROUHIALA, FINLAND)

● Ipswich record home gate is 38,010 (v Leeds, F.A. Cup Sixth Round, 8th March, 1975). Current ground capacity is approximately 32,000.
(MARY-ELLEN GRAHAM, IPSWICH)

Short Passes are replies to readers' letters.



Transatlantic Champions Villa

This week's Star Letter comes from David Wright of Barrow, Leicestershire, who wins our Special Prize of £10. He writes:

THE table shows how the English First Division would have finished had the North American Soccer League points system been used.

It shows clearly that Aston Villa would be Champions both sides of the Atlantic and that poor old Ipswich would again have to be content with second place.

The table throws up many interesting points, and one is that had this system been applied, Wolves, not Norwich would be playing Second Division soccer next season!

Southampton's attacking football would have lifted them up to third place, and Brighton, who only just missed relegation would finish in a safe 14th position.

Whether rewarding attacking football with points for goals would make a great deal of difference to a team's final League position is debatable, for this table and the actual First Division final table are, as a whole, fairly similar.

Unfortunately, whichever points system you use, Crystal Palace had a completely disastrous season!

● You're right — 94 points and still relegated!

Teams	W	D	L	BP	TP
1. Villa	26	8	8	69	241
2. Ipswich	23	10	9	71	229
3. Southampton	20	10	12	72	212
4. W.B.A.	20	12	10	59	203
5. Arsenal	19	15	8	59	203
6. Forest	19	12	11	56	194
7. Liverpool	17	17	8	57	193
8. Spurs	14	15	13	64	178
9. Man. United	15	18	9	48	174
10. Man. City	14	11	17	55	161
11. Leeds	17	10	15	39	161
12. Stoke	12	18	12	51	159
13. Middlesbrough	16	5	21	49	155
14. Brighton	14	7	21	53	151
15. Birmingham	13	12	17	49	151
16. Sunderland	14	7	21	50	148
17. Everton	13	10	19	49	147
18. Coventry	13	10	19	47	145
19. Norwich	13	7	22	47	139
20. Wolves	13	9	20	42	138
21. Leicester	13	6	23	40	130
22. Palace	6	7	29	44	94

NASL Points System

Win — 6 points. Loss — 0 points.

Bonus point for every goal up to a maximum of 3 per match.

N.B. I awarded 2 points for a draw, because we don't have Shootouts after a drawn game in England.

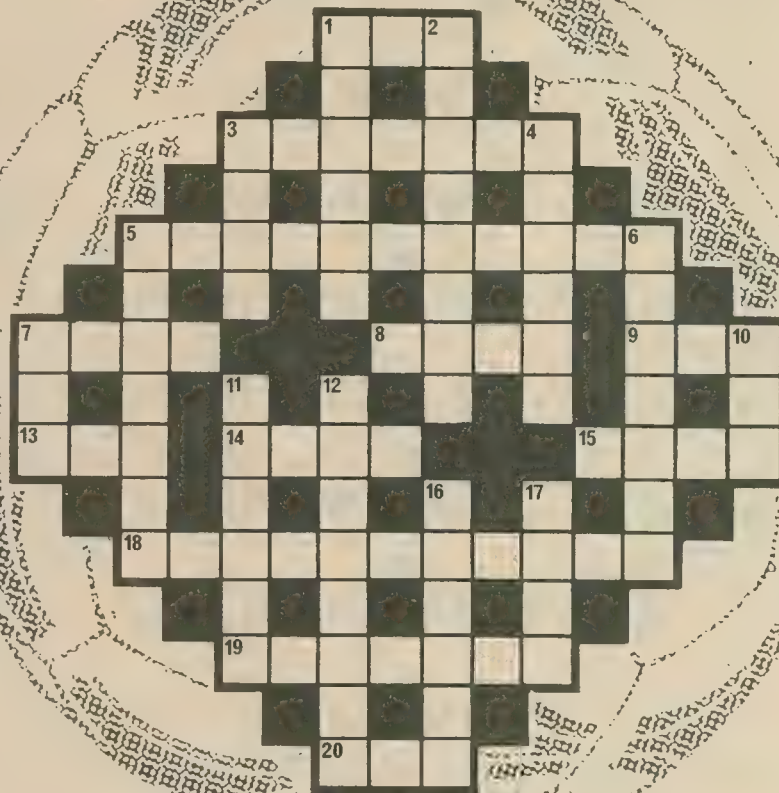
ON THE BALL CROSSWORD

ACROSS:—

- (1) Take three letters from Waterford (Irish League) to make a drink. (3)
- (3) Lurch forward. (7)
- (5) West Bromwich Albion midfielder player. (5 & 6)
- (7) Person or thing bringing bad luck. (4)
- (8) Heavenly performer. (4)
- (9) Gary G---espie, Coventry defender. (3)
- (13) Insect from Brentford's nickname. (3)
- (14) Winners of the European Cup, 1970/71, 1971/72 & 1972/73. (4)
- (15) John ---, W.B.A. defender. (4)
- (18) Leeds United striker. (5&6)
- (19) Instructs and disciplines. (7)
- (20) John ---k, Ipswich's goalscoring midfielder. (3)

DOWN

- (1) One who absents himself from duty. (6)
- (2) Scottish club from Gayfield Park. (8)
- (3) States. (4)
- (4) Make safe or certain. (6)
- (5) Dave of Manchester City or Martyn of W.B.A. (7)
- (6) Making more sound. (7)
- (7) Poke roughly. (3)
- (10) Colin ---, Chelsea striker. (3)
- (11) Carl ---, Leeds United striker. (6)
- (12) Aston Villa striker. (4&4)
- (16) If this clashes, the away team has to change. (6)
- (17) These are changed at half-time. (4)



Answers on page 40.



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MIDDLESBROUGH'S Billy Ashcroft thrives on meeting challenges — which is why he has spent the close season brushing up on his shooting.

And the reason for Billy's target practice lies in the fact that the big fellow's two-year career as a centre-half is over. In 1981-82 season, he will revert to his original position of centre-forward.

Says Ashcroft: "Our manager, Bobby Murdoch, tells me he is looking for a destroyer in the back four. My game is more of the attacking kind so I'll be operating up front again.

"So I'm starting from scratch as a striker, polishing up on things I haven't done for some time, and thinking like a front runner. We've been training twice a week throughout the summer at Ayresome Park and I've been rediscovering the tricks of the trade.

"The boss knows what he wants and I have faith in him.

"Midway through last term I

was suffering from lack of confidence. I was in and out of the side and generally felt disappointed.

"Being realistic about it, I came to realise that my form wasn't good enough to guarantee me a regular place. It got so I didn't enjoy my game in defence and wasn't happy there."

It was former Boro boss John Neal who moved Ashcroft into the back-four, and his form was sound enough to convince the Ayresome club that experienced centre-half Stuart Boam could be sold to Newcastle United.

Now, Ashcroft is confounding an old football axiom that maintains that as a player gets older he can move back but not forward in the line-up.

And Billy says: "I relished the challenge of being groomed for

defence. Now I feel the same way about taking on the role of scoring goals instead of stopping them.

"Obviously, there is a big difference between being an attacker and a stopper, and also between being a centre-forward with my old club, Wrexham, and at Middlesbrough. At the Racecourse Ground, I could play badly and redeem myself by scoring a goal, but in the First Division it's much more difficult to find the net.

"I'm just hoping that by the time the season swings into action I'll have found enough of my old form up front to start sticking the ball away regularly. Most important, I must earn my old place as a striker

Stuart Boam was allowed to leave Middlesbrough because of Ashcroft's fine form in defence.



Ashcroft back in the firing line



Garry Birtles was a classic example of a striker who lost his goalscoring touch last season.

Understandably, Ashcroft is anxious to do well in his comeback as a goalscorer, knowing that he has to prove himself all over again in the forward line.

Born in Liverpool, Billy made over 200 League appearances for Wrexham before he was transferred to Middlesbrough in September, 1977, for £130,000. He arrived at Ayresome Park with a reputation as an unselfish player who made goals for colleagues as well as scoring them, and since then has retained his image as a 100 per cent team man.

Harder

And in the months ahead, will he find that scoring is an easier or harder business than it was when he was making a name for himself in the 1970's?

"In general, scoring these days is harder than it used to be," he says. "But with three points being awarded for a win next season, I think teams will open up more and extra chances will be created.

"I don't believe that I've really shown the Middlesbrough fans what I am capable of as an attacker. This is the ideal opportunity for me to prove myself. We've got to live up to our vast potential this season, and I intend to play my part."

in the first team.

"Scoring frequently is partly a state of mind, and if a centre-forward has a lean spell nothing seems to come off for him. I don't want this to happen when I'm trying to stake my claim to a regular spot in the line-up.

"Last season, Garry Birtles was an outstanding example of a scorer who had lost his touch. Able to get goals with Nottingham Forest he "dried up" at Old Trafford after his transfer to Manchester United."

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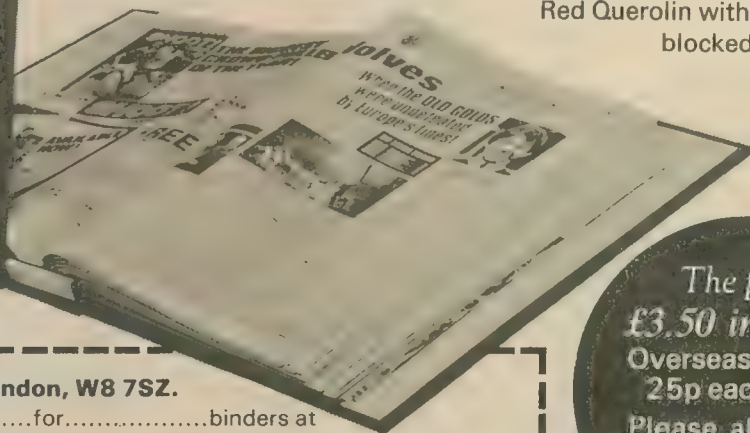
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EXCUSE me while I take a quick look at a picture of my wife and family so I can remember what they look like.

Talk about living out of a suitcase! I've felt more like Alan Whicker than Danny McGrain this pre-season as we log more flying hours than Biggles. It really has been a non-stop roadshow — sorry, airshow.

It all began with a day's notice to get the bags packed and a rush for the Glasgow-London shuttle. From Heathrow we became Transatlantic Celtic as we flew to the States to compete in a four-sided tournament with the Cosmos, Seattle

Sounders and Southampton.

We left Glasgow on the Saturday morning, trained in Central Park 24 hours later and then played the Cosmos hardly knowing whether it was New York or New Year.

Perhaps not too surprisingly playing in temperatures of 90 degrees and humidity so bad you could hardly catch a breath — and on that infernal Astro Turf where a sliding tackle is pure suicide — we lost 2-0 to the Cosmos.

And the next day we took to the skies again for the trans-American flight to Seattle where we faced the local Sounders in the magnificent King Dome.

Outpost

I say Sounders, but it was really an outpost of Derby County.

We lost 2-1 with their goals coming from former Baseball Ground man Jeff Bourne, but in a team managed by Alan Hinton he had Roger Davies and David Nish for company. They were joined by Alan Hudson.

Our goal came from tour roommate Charlie Nicholas, and a cracker it was too, but I missed that game because of an ankle injury.

We flew back across America to play Southampton in the last match in the Giants Stadium, New York, and the flight gave us plenty of time to form our opinions of soccer American style.

To be honest it was much better than most of us had expected, but then the clubs we played were boosted by big name foreign players and had it not been for the jet lag and lack of pre-season training I am confident that we could have taken both the Cosmos and the Sounders without all that much bother ... and that isn't sour grapes!

But they certainly know how to present the game over there although as far as I am concerned they can take their Astro Turf and

'CELTIC JOIN THE JET-SET'

vided by hosts Feyenoord, Anderlecht and Dukla Prague — particularly interesting since Rangers have been paired with the Czech army side in the European Cup-Winners' Cup.

We will no doubt be able to do our old rivals a favour by filling them in on the form of Dukla, but the real benefit of this trip to Celtic will I think come from the stay in Hennef.

Fabulous

Hennef is the home town of Scotland's West German coach, Karl Heddergott — indeed his home is only a few hundred yards from the Sports school and its fabulous facilities.

And Karl was with the Scottish youth team when they stayed there during the European Youth Championships which were held in Germany in May.

Scotland were unbeaten in that competition so the Hennef air obviously did them the world of good. I hope it does the same for Celtic, for most of the air we have seen this summer is pretty rarified!

See you in two weeks ...



Tartan Talk
DANNY
McGRAIN

Ex-Derby striker Roger Davies (left) joined Seattle Sounders last Celtic McGrain was impressed with the American presentation of football (below)

fans is whetted for the competitive start to the season.

So off we go to the Hennef Sports school in West Germany for training followed by a match against Bundesliga side Hamburg — once of Kevin Keegan fame — and a trip to Rotterdam in Holland for another four sider.

This time the opposition is pro-

Danny McGrain

TARTAN TALK
FROM RANGERS'
DEREK JOHNSTONE
NEXT WEEK

plant it in the East River with concrete wellingtons.

Anyway it was back to 30,000 feet again where I am getting on nodding terms with a few clouds, and the trip back home across the pond.

Then there was time to peck my wife Lorraine on the cheek, pack some fresh clothes ... and it was off again. This time to West Germany and Holland.

This time though things weren't so rushed, for the trip was all part of a long arranged pre-season routine.

Manager Billy McNeill has never hidden the fact that he much prefers his warm-up games away from home so that the appetite of the





Mixed emotions at Parkhead as Celtic stars Mark Reid, George McCluskey, Dom Sullivan (standing) and Danny McGain read of their first Round European Cup pairing with Italian giants Juventus

GRAHAM BAKER
Southampton



SHOOT!

SHOP EARLY

AJAX and nine other Dutch First and Second Division clubs will stage their home games next season at 5.30 on Saturday afternoons.

They feel that many fans are persuaded to take their families out for the day on Sundays and more are persuaded by their wives to go shopping on Saturday afternoons. So this way they hope to persuade the fans to compromise with their wives and shop early.



World Cup poster uproar

MALAGA



CORR DEL MUNDO DE FUTBOL ESPANA 82

THE publicity for next year's World Cup Finals in Spain isn't exactly being acclaimed by public opinion.

The 'footballing orange' symbol, Naranjito, has been given a real slating both in Spain and elsewhere.

And now a series of 14 posters (one for each World Cup City) has really put the cat among the pigeons. The cities themselves weren't consulted, and had no say in the designs on the posters.

What's more, most of the artists commissioned are not Spaniards, and feelings are running high with the authorities in most of the centres indignant that their city has had sub-standard posters foisted on it.

In Malaga, for example, the authorities are aghast at a design showing a head seemingly heading a Cup.

"Instead of showing something of the beauty of our city, they've given us a head that looks mentally sub-normal, with an eye out of place, a weak chin, a jailhouse hairstyle and a stupid expression."

ACCORDING to the German paper *Bild* the players and officials of 1st FA Nuremberg celebrated avoiding relegation in an orgy of drink.

After winning away to Bayer Leverkusen they set off by coach for the 300 mile journey home and the 22 occupants consumed 85 bottles of champagne and more than 150 bottles of beer.

Then, arriving in Nuremberg, they visited a disco until 4 am.

Eight hours later at Kirchheim for a friendly match.



How Cruyff ruined a club

JOHAN Cruyff's passage through Spanish Second Division side Levante is still raising clouds of dust, long after the Dutch ace packed his bags and headed back to the Washington Diplomats.

Details of his contract with Levante have now been released, and the figures have scandalised the local fans — especially as Levante were serious promotion candidates before Johan arrived, but abruptly dropped back to a disappointing ninth place with Cruyff in the line-up.

The controversial contract guaranteed the Dutchman a minimum of £165,000 for 12 week's work — and to make sure he got the cash quickly, all gate receipts went directly to Cruyff until the total was reached, except for £12,500 per match to cover the club's staff costs.

What's more, the contract included a strange clause guaranteeing Cruyff 50 per cent of all income from Levante's sports complex, both now and in the future!

Oh, and of course, the club had to provide him with suitable accommodation free of charge, and pay all his taxes.

Not surprisingly, Levante are now bankrupt, and while Cruyff was pocketing all the gate receipts, the rest of the squad weren't paid a peseta.

The directors have resigned leaving the club in serious danger of extinction, and many of the players right down on the bread-line after four months without pay.

As one local journalist remarked, "they might just as well have given Cruyff the whole club."

CHILE THROUGH

CHILE became the third South American side to secure their place in next year's World Cup Finals (Brazil and Argentina were already through) by topping Group 3.

And the key moment came in the 61st minute of Chile's game against Paraguay in Asuncion.

The home team had been doing all the attacking, but Chilean striker Yáñez broke clear to put the ball past Almeida for the only goal of the game.

It was a sorry night for the Paraguayans who, only two years ago, beat Brazil and Chile to clinch the South American Championship.



● Chile stars Osbén, Herrera and goalscorer Yáñez at a team meeting.

Fantastic Brady

FANTASTIC... that was the Italian impression of Liam Brady, the former Arsenal star.

Brady helped Juventus take the title away from Inter Milan... and the Inter Milan players were convinced that Brady was the prime cause.

"Brady was the difference between Juventus and the rest of the sides. He has had a fantastic season," said Gianpiero Marini, Inter's international midfielder.

Passarella for Italy

ARGENTINE captain Daniel Passarella has announced his intention to join an Italian club after next year's World Cup Finals in Spain.

The 28-year-old defender also reckons to pocket any transfer fee offered by the Italians.

He's currently in dispute with his club, River Plate, and unless the two sides reach a swift agreement, Passarella could, under Argentine regulations, become a free agent at the end of the 1982 campaign.



THE president of the Spanish F.A., Pablo Porta, put the cat among the pigeons in a recent interview he gave to Barcelona daily *Mundo Deportivo*.

Trying to justify Spain's close-season tour of South America, he remarked: "I don't want to deceive the whole country in the same way as Argentina did before the last World Cup or Italy before the European Championship."

"They only played comfortable home games against teams that had been paid to lose."

Hmmmm. Dangerous comments that won't make Porta very popular in certain countries. Remember that among the teams 'paid to lose' in Argentina were England and Scotland for a start...

News flashes

● Spanish Second Division club Burgos still owe their players £275,000 in wages from last season, and one member of the squad has been told that the expenses incurred by his recent ligament operation will be deducted from next season's salary.

● Evzen Hadamczik as managed Banik Ostrava to a second consecutive success in the Czech Championships. But three of Prague's four First Division clubs will play in

Europe this season. Dukla in the Cup-Winners' Cup; Bohemians and AC Sparta in the U.E.F.A. Cup, and the only Prague club left out is SK Slavia, the oldest of them all.

● Bayern Munich players had just 21 days break between seasons, reporting back for training again on July 6th and will participate in international tournaments during July in Aachen, Offenbach and Vienna.

● FC Utrecht will be playing in the U.E.F.A. Cup in the new season with a striker whose surname is... Monster.

● The West Germans seem to be confident of qualifying for the second phase of next year's World Cup Finals in Spain — they've been looking for accommodation in the Costa Brava area, convinced that they'll be playing their second phase games in Barcelona.

DELIO ONNIS, the Argentinian transferred last summer from Monaco to FC Tours was once more the top League scorer in France with 24 goals. And this total makes him the top marksman of all time in France with a total of 219 goals, overhauling the 216 of Herve Revelli (St Etienne). Strangely, Just Fontaine whose 13 goals for France in the 1958 World Cup is an all-time record, does not figure in the top ten scorers, for his career was cut short by injury.

ONE of the most fiercely contested Cup competitions in Hong Kong is played with just seven men a side.

And the event — the Stanley Cup — is played for a very important reason.

During the last War, Hong Kong was taken over by the Japanese and there was no organised football, except in Stanley Prison!

Unfortunately, the facilities didn't allow a full size match. But the local detainees and prisoners of War weren't going to miss out on their football, and settled for a seven a side version.

Now that fact has been commemorated for ever.

Soccer century of red cards

BOCA JUNIORS defender Ruggeri had the dubious honour of becoming the 100th player to be sent off during Argentina's Metropolitan Championship when he thumped Instituto's Heredia during the sides' grim 0-0 draw.

Believe it or not, the Argentine 'bad boys' hit their 'ton' of red cards after just 19 League fixtures, and if things continue the way they are, they could set up a black record of 180 sendings-off during the League programme, at an average of ten players per club!

Zico in the money

ZICO, as reported earlier, has re-signed with his club Flamengo. The basis of the contract is interesting because of the sponsorship outside football. For a two year contract Zico receives:

- Signing-on fee of £300,000
- Monthly salary 1st year £5,000
- Monthly salary 2nd year £7,500
- Plus bonuses and 'special' prizes.

To finance Zico's contract, Flamengo have managed to arrange from

1. Coca-Cola £130,000
2. Televised games £90,000
3. Two matches Flamengo v Boca Juniors (TV rights)

£50,000

4. "Donations by firms (these can be discounted from Income Tax)

5. By Brazilian F.A. (advance loan against Zico's services for the Brazil team £60,000.

"Several internationally known firms have also contributed — IBM, Gillette, Varig, amongst others.

The feeling is that this will be the trend in the future, which is of course helped by the law in Brazil which allows firms to make tax deductible contributions to sporting entities who play three or more Olympic sports amongst their activities.



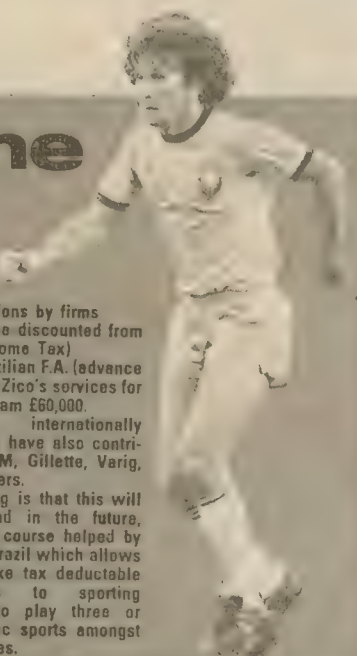
Krankl saga over

IT looks as though the Hans Krankl saga has finally come to an end.

As you may remember, the Austrian striker has been on loan to his original club Rapid Vienna since he was dismissed for the second time by Barcelona last autumn.

In the meantime, Rapid have been struggling desperately to raise enough cash to buy the 28-year-old World Cup hero outright, and they've finally reached an agreement with Barcelona whereby they've paid a first instalment of £100,000 and will pay a further £125,000 at the end of the year.

The Spanish club paid £475,000 for Krankl in 1978.



Martin's shock confession

MICK Martin, Newcastle United's midfield general, has a shock confession to make to his club's fans. He says: "They haven't seen me play at St. James' Park in my best position."

Martin, a Republic of Ireland international, is an experienced professional who knows his own mind — and reckons that if he were starting out on his career in 1981, he would opt for playing as a sweeper.

"By natural inclination I'm a back-four man," says Mick. "I'm at my best when I'm behind the play, able to size up the game, do the sweeping-up work and start off attacks."

Initially, it was Tommy Docherty who classified me as a midfielder when he signed me from Bohemians for Manchester United. Being a youngster, I never objected, and from then on it was accepted that my position was in midfield."

But later, when he appeared for his country, Martin was drafted into a back-four spot, and relishes the fact that through the years he has regularly played as a defender for the Republic of Ireland.

'At home'

"I've turned out 34 times in international matches in the back-four. I feel completely at home as a defender, and although I don't want to boast about it, I can't remember having too many bad games at the back."

While Martin has happy memories of his games for the Republic of Ireland over the past few seasons, he is less satisfied when he recalls Newcastle United's Division Two performances last term, and his own contribution to his club's bid to win a place among the leaders.

Says Mick: "I was annoyed at missing matches due to a knee injury, and although we pulled ourselves away from the bottom of the table our form wasn't too impressive at the end of the season. I felt a sense of frustration at times because we weren't doing better."

Yet in spite of his disappointment at United's middle of the table spot in the League, Martin is hopeful that the team will learn from their set-backs, and looks for continued improvement from the younger players.

"We've got a young side, and we sometimes found them at a disadvantage when coming up against more mature players. This time we'll be a little more experienced, more ready to have a go at improving ourselves and our prospects."

"If Chris Waddle hits it off at outside-left, he will add an extra dimension to our game. I feel strongly that football is lacking in



outstanding wingers. But Chris has the potential."

Bought by ex-Newcastle boss Bill McGarry from West Bromwich for a giveaway price of £100,000, Martin has proved to be one of United's best captures in recent years, coming to St James' with a wealth of experience behind him at the age of 27.

Dublin-born Mick, whose father, Con, won fame with Aston Villa and Eire, began his career in earnest with Bohemians.

Happiest

Then came his transfer to Manchester United, and crowds of 60,000 instead of the normal 1,000! But Martin's happiest days before joining Newcastle were with West Bromwich, who paid out £25,000 for his move from Old Trafford to The Hawthorns.

"I was a bit overawed among all the stars at Manchester," says Martin. "I never really settled in too well there, but held down a first team spot with Albion, where I became a life-time admirer of Johnny Giles."

"Later, when I wasn't a first team regular with West Bromwich, I was delighted to move to the North-East."

Now, with over 40 Irish caps to his credit, Mick has clear-cut priorities. He says: "I just want to steer clear of any more injuries and keep on playing as well as I can."

RIVELINO SNUB

RIVELINO, the player who has played the most games for the Brazilian team — 117 — was upset that coach Tele Santana didn't call him to play once again against Spain. The player decided not to attend the game, where he would have been distinguished with a medal by the Brazilian Football Association (CBF).

After two seasons in Saudi Arabia, Rivelino is back in Brazil so the Brazilian F.A. thought it would be nice to give him a medal before the game against Spain.

Rivelino thought that, together with the medal, he was going to play his last game for Brazil. That apparently had been promised to him by the ex-president of the Football Association, Admiral Heleno Nunes.

But times have changed. The president of the Football Association is now Gilmite

Coutinho. The coach is Tele Santana, not Claudio Coutinho.

Heleno Nunes used to say what Claudio Coutinho was to do with the Brazilian team. Several times he dictated that such-and-such a player should be called or should be put in the line-up.

But Gilmite Coutinho doesn't try to do the same and Tele Santana wouldn't accept that, even if he tried.

So when Rivelino told the CBF directors that he wanted to play, they coughed, they cleared their throats, and they said that was impossible, because Tele Santana had already announced the names of the players he was calling and Rivelino's was not on the list.

So Rivelino said he didn't want the medal. And he didn't go to the game, either.

S MALL he may be, but Liverpool's Sammy Lee is destined to become one of football's giants.

At only five feet four inches, he is one of the First Division's more compact competitors. But he has a heart almost as big as Anfield.

Lee picked up European and League Cup winners' medals in his first full season. He captained the England Under-21 side as an over-age player. He should go on to represent his country at senior level. In the process, playing many more times for Liverpool, and doubtless, winning many more medals.

The SAMMY LEE story

But life has not always been a bed of roses for Lee. Only 18 months ago he was thinking about making a fresh start with another club.

"Looking back, I realise what a big mistake it would have been," he admits. "But I can't tell you how frustrated I was.

"My attitude was all wrong. Everybody at the club knew it too. But they never put me under any pressure. The coaching staff, and Bob Paisley, just kept on encouraging me. They showed an awful lot of faith in me, for which I'm very grateful."

Lee's frustration was understandable. He made his debut coming on as substitute in a match against Leicester City in April, 1978. He scored in a 3-2 win.

But between then and the start of last season, Lee made only 12 more appearances, the majority as substitute.

"I saw some light at the end of the tunnel when I was thrown into that marathon F.A. Cup Semi-Final against Arsenal towards the end of the 1979-80 season," he says.

"I enjoyed the run. I was determined to play well enough to stay in the side."

Lee is proud every time he pulls on the red Liverpool jersey. His eyes light up with every mention of the European Champions.

He joined them straight from school as a 16-year-old, signing professional forms a year later.

"I suppose like every youngster I wanted to play professional

football," he says. "But I was never really sure that I had what it takes.

"To be honest, I had set my heart on becoming a surveyor when I left school."

Lee attended St Francis Xavier's College in Liverpool. He admits he could have cried his eyes out when he learnt he had only passed two of the nine 'O' levels he sat.

"I had no idea what the future held," he says. "Coventry City had invited me to Highfield Road for a trial. I was all set to have a go when Liverpool made an approach. I couldn't turn down that chance."

Lee had watched The Reds from the time he was three. His father, Sam senior, introducing them to him from The Kop.

"Everything went so well in the first two seasons," says Lee. "I had played in the First Division by the time I was 18. It was the period in between my first game and the start of the last season that was frustrating. But I understand now that I had to go through it."

Lee's present ambition? "To stay

Two Liverpool's

Captaining the England Under-21's (below) and in typically aggressive mood for Liverpool against Nottingham Forest last season (right).





Graeme Souness scoring for Liverpool against West Bromwich Albion at Anfield. Souness is the player at Liverpool for whom Sammy Lee holds the greatest respect.

in the side," he says frankly. "I can't look any further ahead than the next game."

Lee made himself a first-choice at Anfield at the expense of Jimmy Case on the right hand side of the midfield.

"Everybody gets the impression that Jimmy and I don't get on," he says. "But nobody has given me more help and advice than Jimmy over the past eight months."

"Ideally I would like to play a more central role, but with Graeme Souness around, that's impossible."

Quite simply, Lee rates Souness as the most complete central midfielder player in Europe.

"I can offer the side a lot more than I have been doing," he says. "My distribution could be a lot better."

Lee is not a superstitious character. He lists eating as one of his hobbies!

"I love food," he says. "I eat a piece of steak twice a day. I must admit that I have to work hard to keep my weight down, though."

"I know a lot of people think I'm overweight. I'm just over ten stones, but I need it to keep going."

Lee looks anything but a professional footballer. His boyish looks and chunky build suggest otherwise. He takes a lot of 'stick' from inside the Liverpool changing room.

"Graeme Souness is the worst," he says. "He recently found out that I was helping with the Boy Scouts movement until a year or so ago. I can't live that down!"

"I take some stick, but they're a great bunch of lads."

Lee is a simple character, unaffected by his success. He drives a Datsun Cherry Coupe, he is quick to point out, with a smile.

"I know a lot has happened to me recently," he says. "I pinch myself now and again to make sure it's all true. I still see a lot of my old school mates, and they soon bring me down to earth if my

steaks a day for little big man



Celebrating in style following Liverpool's 1-0 defeat of Real Madrid in the European Cup Final in the Parc des Princes in May (right) and smiling happily after helping The Reds to their first success in the Football League Cup Final, when they beat West Ham in a replay (below).



feet start to leave the ground."

His greatest moment was picking up a European Cup winners' medal.

"What a marvellous feeling, running round the Parc des Princes stadium with a winners' medal in my hand."

"A lot of what was happening was going over my head until Ray Kennedy pulled me aside and told me to slowly take it all in. What good advice."

Sammy had a coach party of 36 people travel to France for the Champions Cup Final. Now he has tasted success, he wants so much more.

"I believe Liverpool are equipped to go on winning trophies for many years," he says. "Last season was a tough one. I kept on reading how we were finished. The pressure was enormous. But I'm much better for it now. The experience has been great."

"Over the hill? We didn't do badly last season for a team that's supposed to be finished did we?"



TAKE A BREAK—IT'S

Quiz Time

MIDFIELD MEN

1. Do you know the Christian names of the following midfield players... (a) — Bett (Rangers), (b) — Curbishley (Birmingham), (c) — Brooke (Tottenham) and (d) — Brooks (Crystal Palace, below)?



2. Alan West was transferred from Luton Town to which Third Division club recently?

3. Eamonn Bannon starred in midfield for Dundee or Dundee United last season?

4. Dennis Mortimer played for which Midlands club before joining Aston Villa?

5. Is Graham Paddon of Norwich City a full international player?

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. Peter Withe, Aston Villa's much travelled striker, began his League career with former Football League club Barrow.

COMPUTER PUZZLE

Mike Robinson

Programme this star player by plugging the gaps in his career.

1. Robinson began his League career with —, where he scored 25 goals in 48 League appearances.

2. He was later transferred to Manchester City in the summer of —.

3. — signed Robinson for Brighton in 1980.

4. He is an international player for —.

5. He scored — League goals for Brighton during the 1980-81 season.

Computer performance rating:
5 Superb; 4 Excellent; 3 Good.

ON THE BALL

ANSWERS

ACROSS:

(1) Tea. (3) Stumble. (5) Bryan Robson. (7) Jinx. (8) Star. (9) Ill. (13) Bee. (14) Ajax. (15) Wile. (18) Terry Connor. (19) Schools. (20) War.

DOWN:

(1) Truant. (2) Arbroath. (3) Says. (4) Ensure. (5) Bennett. (6) Noisier. (7) Jab. (10) Lee. (11) Harris. (12) Gary Shaw. (16) Colour. (17) Ends.



PICTURE PUZZLE

Study the action photograph, taken during an Aston Villa v Leeds United game last season, and see if you can answer the following questions regarding the picture and the history of the clubs.

1. Can you identify the Leeds player in the light strip?

2. And the Villa player falling to the ground?

3. Have Leeds won the Football League Championship more times than Villa?

4. Can you name the immediate managers that Allan Clarke (Leeds) and Ron Saunders (Villa) succeeded?

5. The Villa Park club won last season's title with 58, 59 or 60 points?

2. Ipswich Town were the last club outside London to win the F.A. Cup.

3. Montrose play their home Scottish Second Division fixtures at Links Park.

4. Steve Phillips scored regularly for Third Division Swindon Town during the 1980-81 season.

5. Halifax Town's highest ever position in the Football League was when they finished third in the Third Division at the end of the 1970-71 season.

Sammy McIlroy (Manchester United) and (d) Jeremy Charles (Swansea) are international players. Which countries have they represented?

2. Have England scored more goals than Scotland in their games against each other?

3. Wales are in Group Two, Three or Four for the 1982 World Cup qualifying rounds?

4. Is it true that Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland met for the first time in a full international in September, 1978 in a European Championship game?

5. Notts County's Don Masson is a full international for which country?

INTERNATIONALS

1. (a) Stuart Pearson (West Ham), (b) Chris Hughton (Tottenham), (c)

ODD SPOT

Who were the last two sets of brothers to play in a winning F.A. Cup Final side together and one of them scored the winning goal?

ANSWERS

MIDFIELD MEN 1. (a) Jim. (b) Alan. (c) Garry. (d) Shaun. 2. Millwall. 3. Dundee United. 4. Coventry. 5. No. (b) Republic of Ireland. (c) Northern Ireland. (d) Wales. 2. Yes — 179 to 165. 3. Three. 4. Yes. 5. Scotland. COMPUTER PUZZLE 1. Preston. 2. 1979. 3. Alan Mullery. 4. Republic of Ireland. 5. 19. TRUE OR FALSE 1. False — he began with Southampton. 2. True. 3. True. 4. False — he was with Northampton. 5. True. ODD SPOT Brian and Jimmy Greenhoff for Manchester United against Liverpool in 1977 and George and Ted Robledo for Newcastle v Arsenal in 1951. PICTURE PUZZLE 1. Carl Harris. 2. Des Bremner. 3. No — Villa have. 4. Jimmy Adamson (Leeds) and Vic Crowe (Villa). 5. 60. ANSWERS

ACCORDING to a recent survey only six players, on average, from each League club were available for selection for the England national team. Put another way, almost half the players in the Football League are non-English, which must mean we have more 'foreigners' than any other country.

Of course most of these are Scottish, Irish or Welsh, but it does underline the dilemma that faces Ron Greenwood. The England manager often jokes about the amount of foreigners in England, although he isn't too far from the truth.

I want to say right away that the League would be much weaker without the players from the other countries in the British Isles. The success of English clubs in Europe would not have been possible without them.

Fans not just at home, but all over Europe, wonder why the success of our clubs is not matched by the England team.

Obviously, as I've said, English clubs are strengthened by other British players. That isn't necessarily the main reason, though. League football and international football are worlds apart.

A step in the right direction was the introduction of foreigners three summers ago. If we're to match West Germany etc. at international level then we must adopt their policies.

Foreigners have, overall, been good for our game. They've added a new dimension, colour and imagination to the League.

It's true to say that these players are keeping out British players, but at the same time our own stars have been helped by playing alongside the likes of Ossie Ardiles and Frans Thijssen.

John Wark must be one of the luckiest midfielders in Europe to



'Why England can't match clubs' success'

play in between Thijssen and Arnie Muhren. The Ipswich midfield has the ideal balance — two of the midfielders go forward and one always stays back to cover. Very rarely are they caught out in this respect.

Our clubs are more concerned with their own success than helping the English national side and that's unlikely to change. The player who plays in the Football League must be able to slog through 60 or 70 games a season in all conditions and, for

the successful ones, under tremendous pressure.

The international game is different. Tactics, style, approach . . . it's a different ball game and it isn't easy to adapt from the sort of football you've played for your club.

Continental clubs don't have the demanding League programme we do. No other country in the world would ask a club to play the number of games Ipswich had to in April — League Championship, F.A. Cup and UEFA Cup games.

"International football makes completely different demands on the players."

Liverpool are still the masters. Personally I didn't enjoy their European Cup Final against Real Madrid. I was delighted that they won the Cup for the third time, but the actual match didn't do much for me.

I doubt if Liverpool supporters were bothered that it wasn't a classic Final. Their team won and while Real possibly played the better football — they lost.

United's first foreign signing, the Yugoslav Nicki Jovanovic, has had a difficult time at Old Trafford. I think he's a super player with lots of skill. He scored something like six goals in eight games during one spell last season, playing in defence, and can count himself unlucky to have been dropped.

Disillusioned

He could have gone to Bayern Munich, who have won the West German League for the second successive year. Nicki must be somewhat disillusioned, but with a new manager 1981/82 may be a better season for him.

I believe Nicki was outstanding when Red Star knocked West Brom out of the UEFA Cup a couple of seasons ago, so Ron Atkinson knows all about him!

It was ironic that in the 100th F.A. Cup Final an Argentine should steal the glory. For too long Ricky Villa has lived in the shadow of Ardiles but in the Wembley replay he was the star.

I remember playing against the pair for Chelsea in one of their early games for Spurs and my view then was that Villa would be a very good player. His skill for a big man, especially in tight situations, made a

Ray Wilkins
WRITES
FOR YOU



"Our own stars have been helped by playing alongside people like Frans Thijssen."



big impression on me.

The flow of foreigners seems to be slowing down as our own transfer market returns to sanity and this must be a good thing. In the meantime we can look back over the past three years and say that the foreigners who have come here have been a welcome boost for English football.

Join me again in a fortnight,

Ray Wilkins

Chris Hughton says Spurs don't want to be...

ONE-SEASON WONDERS!



CHRIS Hughton dismisses Tottenham's memorable F.A. Cup Final win last season as history and insists: "We do not want to become branded as one-season wonders."

Spurs' elegant right-back believes that the sign of a really good team is repeated success. He is proud of their magnificent replay victory over Manchester City at Wembley, but explains: "It was great, but it's not enough."

"Last season was the best of my career so far. I have been with Spurs for eight years and have known nothing like it. But it is dangerous to keep thinking about the past, even if it was only a matter of a few months ago."

"And the truth is that unless we win something this coming season we will go down as just another of those sides that enjoyed a brief burst of glory."

Strong and mature words from a 22-year-old who feels an atmosphere of impending greatness around White Hart Lane.

"Aston Villa have broken the ice by winning the League Championship. Liverpool are still a great club, but perhaps their grip on the title has been shaken loose at last."

"Now I believe that Spurs can aim for that title for the first time since they won the double back in 1961."

"Nobody doubts our ability and we have proved that we can bury the best sides around when we are playing our top football. But we are an inconsistent team and that is what we must correct next season."

Hughton was born in Forest Gate, East London, and joined Spurs from school.



Hughton celebrates Wembley victory with Spurs team-mate Garth Crooks.

It took him a while to make a full-back position his own, but once he had settled down as an attacking, goal-hunting defender, his form attracted the Irish Republic which offered him the opportunity of international status.

'Strength'

He explains: "I was picked on the strength of my mother's birthplace, Limerick in the South West of Ireland. It was a little unexpected but I have enjoyed every one of my 12 appearances for Ireland, especially my debut when we beat the USA 3-2 in a Dublin friendly."

Nobody questions Tottenham's flair, their quality players in certain positions and their exciting, attacking style of play under manager Keith Burkinshaw. But the League Championship requires even more than the qualities Tottenham possess.

"I disagree," says Hughton. "We have experience, discipline, flair

and some of the most exciting individuals in the League."

"Our defence upset certain experts by performing well throughout the Cup run, we have the likes of Glenn Hoddle and Ossie Ardiles in midfield, Garth Crooks and Steve Archibald up front and Ricky Villa and Tony Galvin combining with midfield and attack to great effect."

"We have the stadium, the following, the manager, the players and the confidence gained from winning the Cup in such entertaining style. I bet every neutral enjoyed the two games against City, and that is not always the case with Cup Finals."

Of course Spurs have another avenue to explore as well.

"Yes, we cannot wait for the First Round clash against Ajax in the European Cup-Winners' Cup. And once again we have a lot of experience in the side when it comes to playing abroad and facing foreign opposition."

"I am convinced that our F.A. Cup win marked the beginning of a new Spurs era rather than the peak of a successful season."

NEXT WEEK'S ALL STAR LINE-UP...

JOHN ROBERTSON'S amazing battle to reach the top at Forest.

New managers Emyln Hughes, Mel Sutton, Ronnie Allen and Ian Porterfield look ahead to the new season.

Part Two of SHOOT'S Nationwide — a look at clubs in the South, East and West and their prospects for 1981-82.

We talk to ALAN HANSEN, BOB PAISLEY, IAN BOTHAM, AND BOB LATCHFORD on his recent move from Everton to Swansea.

JIM SMITH on what Villa's success will mean to Birmingham City.

All the Scottish League fixtures for 1981-82.

IN COLOUR

ASA HARTFORD (Everton) ANDY BLAIR (Coventry) Focus on Trevor Christie (Notts County) double page pin-up of KENNY SANSOM (Arsenal).

All this PLUS the chance to meet and train with Britain's most expensive 'keeper Phil Parkes + pairs of goalkeeping gloves to be won.

The sensational JOE JORDAN Story in pictures, how his closest friend GORDON McQUEEN thinks he will cope with life at AC Milan.



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British stars bridge the gap

BRITISH international stars CAN bridge the Atlantic. That is the verdict of Wales skipper Terry Yorath and Northern Ireland's attacking midfielder David McCreery after their recent jet-set dashes from North American clubs to play World Cup games.

The charge that they had to disprove was that the lower standards of skill and less demanding competitive levels of the NASL would write off their future as key internationals.

Yorath returned from Vancouver Whitecaps to lead Wales against the USSR with his usual authority, while McCreery hustled home from Tulsa Roughnecks to play effectively in Sweden.

"As far as the pace is concerned, there is no problem," says Yorath. "American football is played at such a helter-skelter speed that you can easily cope with that."

'Concentration'

"Where you must gear up is in your level of concentration. Players brought up in League football can handle the American game: it is when you return and face a side as good as the Russians that you appreciate the gap."

"I made sure that I instantly buckled down to the challenge of the Russians at Wrexham and I felt that I coped well with everything they tried. It was very important to me to show that I could still do a job for Wales."

Jet lag is one problem which Yorath and McCreery faced. Wales manager Mike England insisted that Yorath reported 24 hours earlier than any other player while Northern Ireland's boss, Billy Bingham, heaved a sigh of relief when McCreery sparkled in Stockholm — it was even more of an ordeal for him than Yorath.

McCreery's journey did not end

when he flew into London; he had an overnight stay at Heathrow before embarking on the second leg to Sweden. "I watched him very carefully in training, kept asking him how he felt and deliberately did not select my side until the last minute," says Bingham.

"David was fine on day one, perky enough on day two . . . but I remembered our trip to Australia 12 months earlier when we played a game on the third day after arriving and were absolutely shattered. Anyway, he was on top



DAVID McCreery (left) flew in from Tulsa to play for Northern Ireland in Stockholm, while Welsh skipper Terry Yorath was as commanding as ever against the Russians (above) at Wrexham.

of the world on the day of the game so I played him — and was delighted that I did.

"Ideally, I would want a player to have five days between completing a journey of that scale and playing an international but, obviously, that is impossible. You have to settle for the best you can get and David is lucky enough to

possess that special kind of body metabolism which quickly copes with a 'lag' of seven hours or so.

"Like Terry Yorath, he is absolutely determined to play for his country in World Cup matches. He, too, had a watertight clause inserted in his contract: that kind of attitude helps a player to win any personal battle."

ATTENDANCES WORRY

EVEN a national baseball strike, which had denied millions of fans their daily sporting injection, hasn't lifted soccer's dwindling gates. When the Cosmos, who pulled in 77,000 two years ago,



The novelty of soccer seems to have worn off for many American spectators.

report attendances of under 40,000, it's got to be a worry for everyone else.

Atlanta Chiefs, who lose no points for enterprise, offered free entrance to their matches to anyone holding tickets for future baseball games at the stadium. Just 307 fans took them up on it.

Brian Kidd's goals have revitalised Atlanta on the field this season, taking them to top spot in the Southern Division. But like Dallas, they're still one of the franchises in danger of folding.

Owner Ted Turner admits that the club "Have one foot on the expressway and the other on a banana peel."

Turner's three-year financial commitment to the club expires this season though he has promised that if they win the Divisional crown he will: "do everything short of selling my real estate" to keep them in Atlanta.

HUDSON JNR. AN AMERICAN



IF Alan Hudson's three-month-old son Anthony ever plays for his country, it's more likely to be America than England.

Having been born in Seattle, where dad's playing for the Sounders, Hudson junior will get the choice of citizenship when he's 21.

Says Hudson: "I hope he stays an American citizen — and I'd like my other boy to become an American too. I just can't see any future in England for them."

Hudson himself still gets the inkling now and again to go home

and prove himself once again in the English First Division. "It would be nice to join a top Football League or a European club and have a final fling at that sort of level."

Mostly, though, he's contented with his life in Seattle, and he's just signed a three-year contract with the Sounders which will take him up to 33.

TORNADO BLOWS OUT

DALLAS, which became world famous for having the meanest rancher on television, has now earned notoriety for housing the most unsuccessful soccer team in American history.

Dallas Tornado, who haven't put the wind up any opponents for a long time, have lost 17 successive games in the North American Soccer League.

That's three more than Edmonton's losing streak in 1979.

FOCUS ON



MICK DUXBURY

Manchester United

FULL NAME: Michael Duxbury
BIRTHPLACE: Accrington
BIRTHDATE: September 1, 1959
HEIGHT: 5ft 9½ins
WEIGHT: 10st 10lbs
PREVIOUS CLUBS: None, I joined United straight from school
MARRIED: No. Engaged to Karen
CAR: Ford Escort 1.6 Ghia
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Daily Mirror
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Ray Wilkins
MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE: Youth team player David Wynn
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Accrington Stanley
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: Pele
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Boxing
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Graham Rix of Arsenal
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: My full debut against Man. City at Old Trafford
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: None at the moment
FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: Ipswich Town
FAVOURITE FOOD & DRINK: Smoked salmon and prawns, milk shake
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES AND DISLIKES: Listening to music/'False' people
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Lake District
FAVOURITE T.V. STAR, MALE AND FEMALE: The cast of Tiswas
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Doing nothing
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Stevie Wonder, Judie Tzuke
AFTER-MATCH ROUTINE: Go out for a drink with friends
BEST FRIEND: My fiancée Karen
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My parents, for being there when needed
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: England Under 21 cap
PERSONAL AMBITION: To buy my own house
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? Haven't a clue
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Stevie Wonder

Mick Duxbury

SHOOT!